

LSC Training Contracts Grant Scheme Case Study

TRAINEE: Darren Ward,
Sternberg Reed, London.

Darren studied Law at the Metropolitan University. After securing a place as a solicitor's clerk/ paralegal at two reputable London/Essex criminal firms, he completed his degree with a 2:1 (HONS) LLB. After this he attended the College of Law in London and completed the Legal Practice Course full time. During this course, he applied for a training contract with his current firm, Sternberg reed and was fortunate enough to be securing a place on the training contract grant scheme.

Darren now works in a public law, childcare department of which he really has a passion for. He said: "Everyone here is very supportive and I am happy to stay in legal aid and this area for my career.

"I am very grateful for funding provided by the LSC and having the opportunity to concentrate on legal aid work as a big part of my early career. Working in legal aid is very rewarding and this scheme is a very good idea for getting solicitors into this very busy area of law. People who cannot afford funding also need representation and this scheme has made me want to concentrate on providing legal advice to those who cannot afford it."



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TRAINEE: Javeria Ijaz,
Coventry Law Centre.

As a trainee solicitor and accredited Immigration and Asylum Caseworker at the Coventry Law Centre, Javeria helps provide free legal help and representation to people facing disadvantage in the community. Having achieved an LLB (HONS) Degree, Javeria progressed to accomplishing a Commendation qualification in the Legal practice Course at the College of Law. After gaining experience and knowledge in Immigration during her time at the Border and Immigration Agency, Javeria changed her career path and has since continued to contribute in providing free legal advice and representation at an organisation that holds the Legal Service Commission Quality Mark at the specialist level.

Though her training seats are in Housing, Employment and Immigration, the law centre also specialises in Community Care, Discrimination, Welfare Benefits, Mental Health and Public and Human Rights Law.

Javeria said: "The Training Contract Grant Scheme has given me the right platform to help challenge the way the law effects the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community. On qualification, I intend to enjoy a long and rewarding career in legal help.

"I believe the Training Contract Grant Scheme to be a step forward in the right direction as it encourages young lawyers like myself to enter the legal help profession with job satisfaction, support and security."

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TRAINEE: Ruthana Barnett,
Turpin Miller, in Oxford.

Ruthana began her training contract in September 2008 and finishes in September 2010.

"I began my training in law with the intention of working in Legal Aid. I had previously worked as an LSC caseworker and found information about the scheme from the LSC web site.

"The scheme has assisted me to remain in the area of work to which I am committed, rather than to take a training contract with a commercial firm and return to Legal Aid later in my career.

"The training contract grant scheme has assisted me to achieve my goals by providing me with a relevant training contract as well as financial assistance for tuition fees on the LPC.

"I am 39 years old, and worked as a Housing and Money Advice Caseworker at Lancaster Citizens Advice Bureau, after completing my PhD in Linguistics. I studied for the CPE part-time whilst working as a caseworker. I then went on to work as Coordinator at Lancaster and District Women's Aid, supervising the advice work and developing the service in partnership with the local authority and the police."



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TRAINEE: Sophie Williams,
Edward Hayes.

Sophie, aged 23, is from Selsey, West Sussex.

She said: "I graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 2007 with a 2:1 in law. I completed the Legal Practice Course at Guildford College of Law in June 2008 and passed with distinction.

I joined Edward Hayes during my gap year in 2004 before commencing university and came back to work in the summer months. Consequently, due to the valuable experience I have gained from Edward Hayes, it was natural to apply for a training contract with this firm.

The scheme has helped me so far in the field of funding the legal practice course. With fees totaling £9,200, the grant has prevented me from getting into more student debt! I am thoroughly enjoying my time with Edward Hayes. I have learnt a lot from my supervisor, Maria Monan, in a short space of time and am finding the position extremely rewarding. I am confident that I am going to enjoy a career in criminal law."



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TRAINEE: Cynthia Barrientos RFB Solicitors, London

Cynthia studied law at Kings College in London before undertaking the LPC with BPP Law School. Following this she worked as a paralegal at a criminal firm for 8 months and later worked at an Immigration firm before training at RFB Solicitors.

When asked what attracted her to a career in legal aid, Cynthia said “Job satisfaction enthusiasm to help people who are marginalised in society, the satisfaction that I can help individuals with their personal problems.

Her training is funded by the 2006 Training Contract Grants Scheme, she said: “It has helped me gain different skills from different areas of law, it has allowed me to work with people from a diverse background.”

“I have enjoyed my training I am now an accredited police station representative and have had a years experience in family law.

I hope to continue to work in legal aid by becoming a duty solicitor. “