

Summer Clerk Testimonials

by Andy Yang

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1. What did you enjoy most about your experience?

The Clerkship was a window into what practicing at Harmers as a graduate lawyer looked like. Never did I feel out of my depth because there was always someone to ask for guidance from. I most enjoyed conducting meaningful work. I remember two senior solicitors thanking me for my efforts in writing a research memorandum which proved to be of great assistance to a client's case. This is just one example of how I was made to feel part of a team where my efforts and opinions were truly valued.

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2. What did you learn during the clerkship?

In short, legal practice in an employment law context 101. I joined the firm with limited experience. During the Clerkship, I had to put my legal research and writing skills that I had developed during my studies to use. The first thing I noticed was how different legal writing from a practice point of view was relative to what I was accustomed to at university. The lawyers have continuously invested in my development through spending the time to provide feedback and training me on how to strengthen my skills.

3. What made you decide to clerk at Harmers?

Harmers is all about its people. When I started I was genuinely surprised at how approachable everybody was and how willing they were in including me in everything that the firm engaged in. For example, I remember in a team meeting, I was asked about my workload and how I was going generally. The firm truly practices what it preaches in terms of supporting its employees.

4. Why employment law?

I started at the firm with limited knowledge in employment law except for the fact that it is heavily centred in contract law. Towards the end of the clerkship, I admired how all-encompassing employment law actually is. For example, it delves into corporations, work health and safety, and on the occasion, criminal law. What also inspired me was how employment law actually affects people regardless of whether you are acting for an employer or employee. The fact is, the work you engage in impacts people and changes organisations.

5. What best describes your experiences as a Summer Clerk at Harmers?

If I could summarise my experience in one word, it would be "trust". The lawyers at the firm trusted me in providing my opinion on a client's matter. They also trusted me in conducting tasks which were of vital importance to the outcome of various matters. Furthermore, during the clerkship period, I learnt much more than what any subject at university could teach in one semester. Some tasks were challenging, but I learnt a lot more about what I was capable of through the journey.

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