

Summer Clerk Testimonials

by Samantha Harmer

1. What did you enjoy most about your experience?

I truly valued the opportunity to work with solicitors on matters which made me feel like I was a part of the Harmers team, and that I was making a meaningful contribution to our client's case.

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I also enjoyed being encouraged to sit in on client meetings and teleconferences (as this was not something I had ever experienced before). It opened my eyes to what it is like being a practicing solicitor as opposed to studying the theory of law at university.

2. What did you learn during the clerkship?

As with any new position, significant training is involved, not only to provide a general understanding of the expected content, knowledge and level of work that is to be prepared, but also and most importantly, learning about the culture of the firm.

I learnt much at Harmers with regards to research and drafting of documents, and much more than I have so far in my four years of university. The skills I have learnt from my time as a Summer Clerk have been useful not only in my current position as a paralegal, but have also been applicable to the remainder of my degree.

I also valued learning that working in a law firm is not as scary as many law students perceive it to be. Seeing the Harmers' work/life balance principle in practice really encouraged me to pursue a career within the law side of my double degree (Law/Commerce).

3. Why employment law?

I have always had a keen interest in the workplace, having almost completed my Commerce degree but I was also interested in the law side. When I started the Summer Clerkship I had not yet enrolled in the employment law elective offered at my university so I had very little experience and understanding of what employment law involved. I was pleasantly surprised by the variety of work employment law provides. I feel as though I received a really well rounded experience and insight into the diverse work involved, as well as a mixture of individual and corporate clients.

4. What best describes your experience as a Summer Clerk at Harmers?

My experience is best described as a valuable wholesome opportunity to further my understanding not only within the realms of employment law, but also, providing me with a snap shot understanding of what it is to be an employment lawyer and I cannot wait until I can become one myself.

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