

Training Contract Brochure (for Training Contracts commencing September 2024)





Dorsey and its training contract

Who are we?

Dorsey & Whitney LLP was established in 1912 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the request of a client that is still a valued client today. We believe the longevity of our client relationships is something that distinguishes us and that speaks to the competitive edge we deliver to our clients. Today, Dorsey lawyers practice in locations in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region and serve clients all around the world.

The London office is Dorsey's European hub and provides a full-service practice to clients. Its lawyers are consistently ranked by Chambers UK and the Legal 500. The London office is a fairly small office, comprising around 30 lawyers, and prides itself on its collegiate and friendly but hardworking environment.



Our training contract

Dorsey takes on two trainee solicitors every September. We look for trainees who can really add value to our team, which goes beyond billable hours. Our ideal candidates are academically excellent, proactive, team players, friendly, hard working and capable of developing long-lasting and fruitful client relationships.

Each trainee will complete four six-month seats in the following practice areas: mergers & acquisitions, capital markets & banking, commercial litigation and real estate & intellectual property.

Trainee solicitors' salaries are standard for, and increase in line with, the London market.

You can find more information regarding Dorsey's training contract online on Chambers Student's "True Picture" and Lex100.



A day in the life of a Dorsey trainee

Trainee profile

Name: Isabel Neelands

About the trainee: Isabel is currently in her third seat at Dorsey. Isabel studied Law at the University of Exeter before going on to complete a Master's at King's College, London, whilst also working in the Deal Management Team at BBC Studios. After two years at BBC Studios, Isabel took on the role of Business Manager at British GQ. Isabel completed her accelerated Legal Practice Course at the University of Law, Moorgate before joining Dorsey in September 2019.

A typical day

Seat at time of writing: Litigation

09:00am: I start my day by reviewing and filing my emails over my morning coffee. We are in the midst of a trial, so I look carefully for any correspondence from my litigation colleagues to assist with the electronic bundle updates.

09:30am: Although I am a litigation trainee, due to the nature of a small trainee intake, I am also assisting other departments. One of the many benefits of a small trainee intake is the varied work that you are exposed to, which is great for your professional development. I have been given a data protection-related research task by my colleague; we speak on the phone so that I can get some background on the task. I then begin to carry out the research.

10:15am: I've heard from my litigation supervisor that getting to trial seldom happens, so I am particularly excited to attend a morning session of a virtual relief-stage trial. All participants dial in to the virtual court room, like you would for a Zoom meeting. The "room" is then locked. I follow the witness cross-examination closely, using an electronic bundle for reference.

01:00pm: The trial has paused for lunch so I do a 30 minute virtual yoga class over Zoom. I have been practicing yoga for a good few years now, and find it a great way to break up my day during the period of remote working. I then prepare a quick lunch, before returning to my desk.

02:00pm: I continue with the data protection research I began earlier today and draft an email with my findings to my colleague.

02:50pm: I begin my next task of drafting a set of subscription letters and manager loan agreements for a corporate matter.

05:20pm: It's time for a coffee – I give my fellow trainee a quick call to see how his day is going while I make a beverage.

05:30pm: I have been asked to amend a settlement agreement with additional comments from my supervisor, before giving it a good proof read. This is the first time I have dealt with a settlement agreement, so I refresh my knowledge of the specifics by reading an article on PLC. I then carry out the task.

07:45pm: I check in with the litigation associate I have been assisting with the trial bundle, to see whether there are any additional actions that need to be taken today. After she confirms that there are none to be done this evening, I review and update my to-do-list for the next day and log off.



Training contract applications

Application process

1 June 2023

Application window opens.

31 July 2023

Deadline for training contract applications.

Applications for September 2024 training contracts will be accepted between 1 June 2023 and 31 July 2023. Please send a covering letter and CV to Stewart Worthy (worthy.stewart@Dorsey.com), the Training Supervisor.

Covering letters should set out why you are interested in a career as a solicitor and why you are interested in pursuing that career at Dorsey in particular. We would also be interested in examples of your non-academic achievements or activities. Please try to keep covering letters to no more than one page.

August 2023

First round interviews.

August/September

Second round interviews including a written assessment and presentation.

2022

Contact information

For further information about our training contracts, please visit our website at https://www.dorsey.com/careers/trainees.

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Other details

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