

CLEARY GOTTLIB

# Training as a Solicitor

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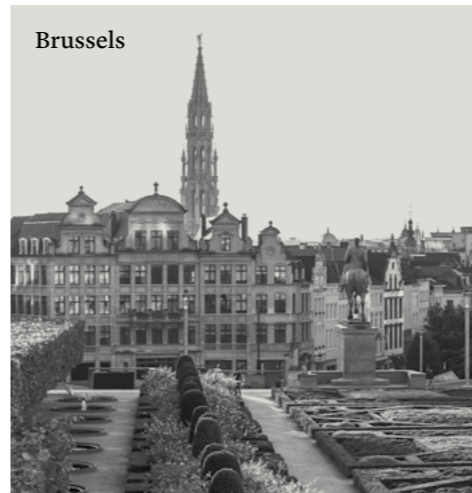
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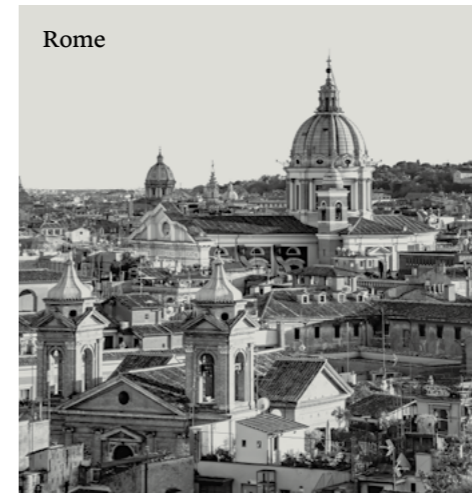
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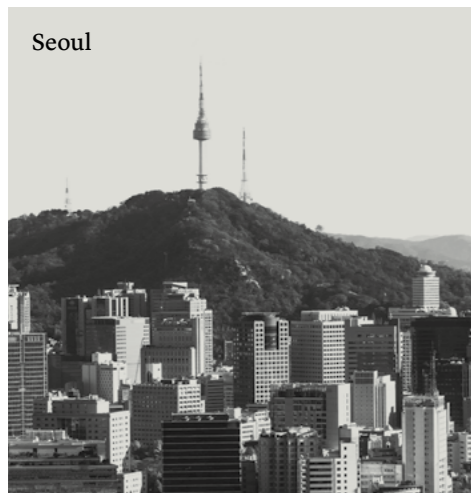
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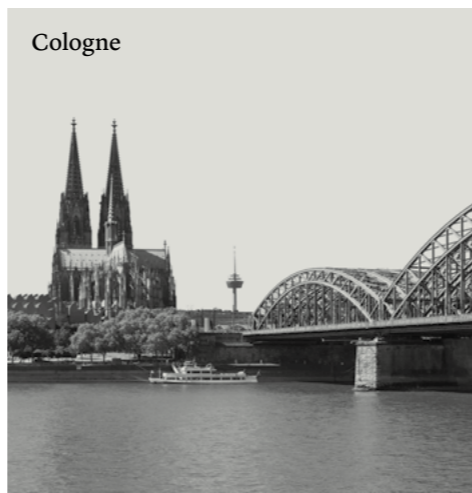
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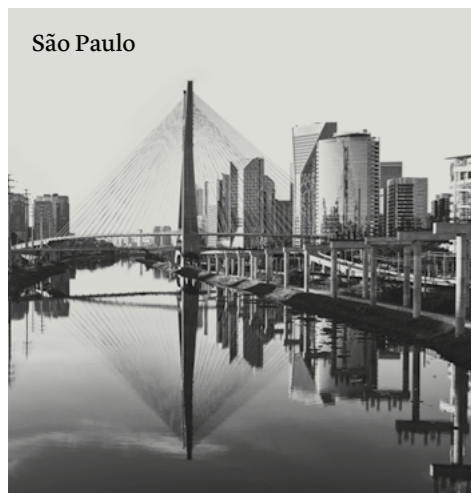
Cologne



Frankfurt



São Paulo



Abu Dhabi



Beijing



Bay Area



In 1946, six distinguished lawyers had the vision to see the law as a global profession and the courage to create a firm dedicated to the concept that legal excellence can be best achieved when the lawyers in a firm cooperate rather than compete. The founders of Cleary Gottlieb created an environment where collegiality, trust and respect are the guiding principles under which we work all over the world today.

# Welcome from the Trainee Committee



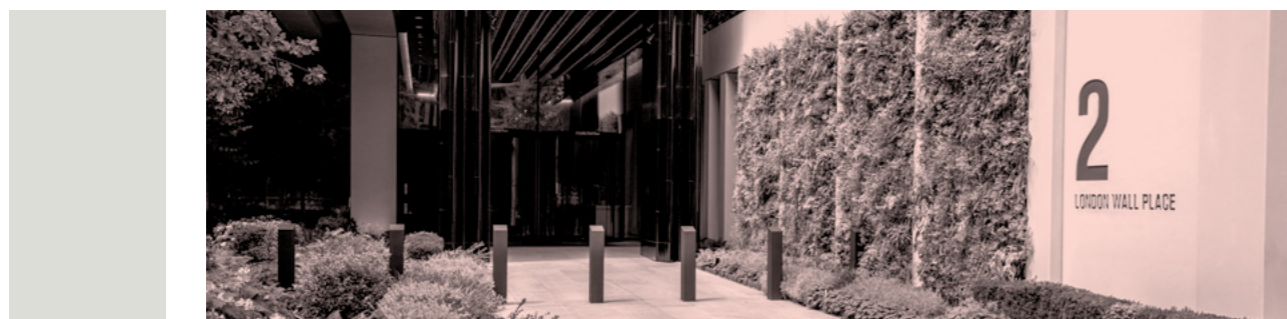
“Our firm’s continuing success in London is dependent on being able to recruit, train and retain the best lawyers. As we prefer to grow organically, our trainee programme is hugely important to us.”

**James Norris-Jones**  
Partner and Training Principal



“We have a relatively small trainee intake, which means our trainees integrate from the outset with the firm as a whole and are encouraged to see themselves as ‘one of the team’. This also allows flexibility across departments and areas of interest, and for individually tailored development which all contributes to our trainees becoming well-rounded lawyers with a seamless transition to day one as an associate. I also see our trainees supporting each other across teams throughout the course of their training contracts, in line with the collaborative culture that is so valued at Cleary.”

**Naomi Tarawali**  
Partner

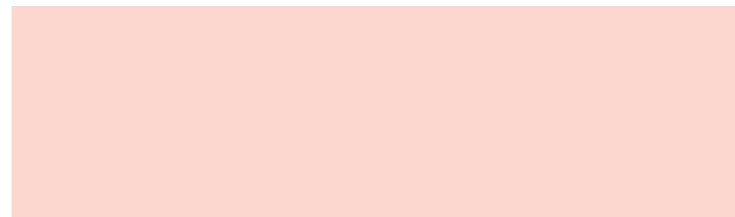


“My greatest joy as a member of the Trainee Committee is the opportunity to mentor a few of the trainees in each intake all the way through their training contract (and often into their associate years). Our trainees never fail to inspire and impress me, and being a part of their journey from arrival to qualification is an enormous privilege.”

**Melissa Reid**  
Counsel

“When I joined Cleary as a trainee in 2012, I was attracted by the international nature of the firm’s work, its collegial working environment and its commitment to the accelerated development of its junior lawyers. Those attributes ring truer than ever today, and have remained a constant during my time as a trainee, associate and now a partner. I am proud to have spent my whole career to date at Cleary, and it is gratifying to be involved in its trainee recruitment and development efforts, both as a supervisor and through the London Trainee Committee.”

**Chrisan Raja**  
Partner



“We firmly believe in learning by doing, and – as with our training contracts – we aim to give participants direct exposure to client work throughout their vacation scheme.”

**Paul Stuart**  
Counsel



“We support our trainees with a collaborative, team-based approach to our work and we supplement on-the-job learning with an extensive formal training programme that draws on the experiences of both our senior lawyers, dedicated knowledge management staff, and external instructors and coaches.”

**Michael James**  
Partner

# Culture

## Our London Office

### One Firm

We are a single, integrated, global partnership. Our ‘one firm’ approach enables us to deliver all of our resources to all of our clients, wherever in the world they may be.

### Multiple Specialties

We train our lawyers to identify and consider all issues raised by a transaction, and we encourage each senior lawyer to focus on more than one type of transaction. This approach equips our lawyers with a deep understanding of the ways in which all aspects of a transaction fit together. Unencumbered by departmental boundaries, our lawyers’ ability to see the ‘big picture’ delivers a propensity for innovation that can often be lost through over-specialisation.

### Not Departmentalised

Following the standard found in all our offices, the London office is not departmentalised. Rather than limit our lawyers, we want them to follow their interests and abilities. Our lawyers’ offices are not grouped by practice area: they are mixed around the office. This encourages discussion and integration between lawyers working on a variety of matters related to a range of practice areas and contributes significantly to the informality and collegiality of our office environment.

### Core Areas of Practice

Our core areas of practice in London include M&A and other corporate work, international capital markets and finance, antitrust, litigation and arbitration, tax, financial regulation, employment, and intellectual property. Lawyers who focus on different practices work closely together, according to the requirements of a particular transaction.

### Multi-office Deal Teams

The London office is a key part of our closely-integrated network of international offices. Our focus on high-quality, innovative, and high-profile transactions means that our work almost always has a cross-border element. We work with colleagues in our U.S., Latin American, European, Middle Eastern, and Asian offices on a daily basis. Deal teams typically combine the skills and resources of lawyers from more than one office.

### Practice Environment

Our London office offers a dynamic, challenging, and stimulating environment in which to practise law. Our firm conducts the highest-quality work for the most interesting clients. You will work with colleagues of a consistently-high calibre across numerous jurisdictions. Lawyers in London are supported by an international network of know-how, precedents, and best practices built on the vast experience of all our lawyers worldwide. Our London office practises in a smaller and more informal environment than is possible in the larger London firms. We believe we provide the optimal setting in which to train and practise as a solicitor.



“Cleary’s culture is perhaps its greatest strength as a firm. Whether within the London office or across different jurisdictions, everyone supports each other, shares their knowledge and experiences, and values each other’s views and different ways of approaching legal issues, all with the aim of providing the best possible service to our clients. This is not by chance: the leadership of the firm is obsessed with getting our culture right and this tone from the top carries across the firm.”

**Ferdisha Snagg**  
Counsel



## Disputes

“I was able to experience various points in the life-cycle of a dispute, including a case at the pre-Cost Management Conference stage, a matter which was well into disclosure, and another matter which was listed for trial. As is typical at Cleary, the London disputes team is not fragmented into specialisations and as a result, I was able to work on both litigation and arbitration matters. Quite often, the issues we were confronted with were unprecedented meaning we had to reason from first principles, which made disputes a challenging but intellectually satisfying seat.”

**Mehleen Gehler-Rahman**  
Trainee Solicitor



## Capital Markets

“Cleary’s capital markets team has longstanding relationships with some of the largest and most sophisticated financial institutions in the world. Across both the equity and debt capital markets, the diversity of the work we do for our clients is remarkable. Trainees in the group are afforded significant responsibility to run transactions and interact with clients, which has allowed me to grow in confidence as a lawyer. The team is also one of the best at Cleary and it has been a pleasure to learn alongside such an inspirational group of individuals.”

**Steven Daly**  
Trainee Solicitor



# Excellence

## A Focus on Excellence

Clients trust us to handle their most challenging assignments, whether large corporate transactions, bet-the-company litigation matters, or cases of first impression.

Our work is rarely easy, but we believe you will find it interesting and rewarding. Our lawyers say that what attracted them to Cleary Gottlieb is the opportunity to work on high-profile cases and transactions where the stakes are the highest and where their talents can make a difference in the outcome of a case or transaction.

## Quality Clients

Our clients include multinational corporations (Coca-Cola, Euronext, Garuda Indonesia, GlaxoSmithKline, Google, LVMH, Ryanair, Sony, Starbucks), many international financial institutions (American Express, Bank of America, BNP Paribas, Citigroup, Crédit Agricole, Goldman Sachs), private equity funds (KKR, Sixth Street, TPG, Warburg Pincus), sovereign governments (Argentina, Brazil, France, Greece, Mexico), sovereign wealth funds, and domestic corporations and financial institutions.

# Global Reach

**Cleary Gottlieb is a pioneer in globalising the legal profession.** We opened an office in Paris in 1949 — three years after the firm was founded in New York and Washington, D.C. Over 75 years later, about 50 percent of our lawyers work outside the United States. While that percentage illustrates the point that we truly are an international firm, it tells only part of our story.

We are proud of the way we build our presence around the world. The offices we open are staffed with homegrown Cleary lawyers, which preserves our culture. Equally important, we bring the talents of lawyers across the firm to bear on issues facing local clients.

“It’s very encouraging to see partners promoted internally with a different leadership style.”

*Chambers Student Guide, 2023*

In each of our offices and across each practice area, our lawyers represent clients on matters that set precedents and defined standards – and we’ve been recognised for our work:

247

practice and lawyer rankings earned in the 2023 edition of *Chambers Global*

55

of these rankings were top tier



“Cleary lawyers, who come from a diverse array of backgrounds, are highly attuned to the nuances of doing business in different regions, cultures and regulatory systems; that’s been in our DNA as a firm since its founding. Our London team works seamlessly with their global colleagues to provide the best possible results for our clients.”

**Tahir Sarkar**  
Partner



## Client Secondment

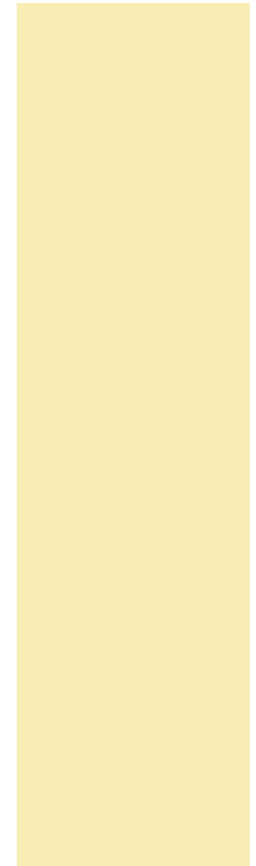
“Having the opportunity to do a client secondment has been a great way to truly understand the clients’ needs, including the level of service clients expect from their external counsel. Working in the Haleon Corporate Legal team, I have had the chance to work on a variety of transactions including divestments, acquisitions, licensing etc. This experience has enabled me to expand my knowledge of M&A. For example, when working on a divestment, I was able to attend and participate in internal strategic / logistical meetings, which provided insight into the M&A strategy of the company and forced me to consider the broader impacts of a proposed transaction (rather than just looking at the deal in isolation).”

**Nadia Romano**  
Associate

Overseas Secondment

“My secondment to the Hong Kong office was a truly enriching experience. I was not only given an insight into the private funds market in Asia, but also the opportunity to work with exceptional and dedicated lawyers. I am very grateful to have forged new friendships within the Cleary network.”

—  
**Leeke Melaku**  
Trainee Solicitor



Overseas Secondment

“My secondment in the Brussels office was a great opportunity to build on my experience sitting in Competition. Being able to expand my practice as part of Cleary’s leading EU Competition team was a great privilege. Cleary’s London and Brussels Competition teams are seamlessly interconnected, and met many members of the team who I had already worked with in person.”

—  
**Gee Kim**  
Associate







“Training and developing trainees is a core part of Cleary’s culture. With high-calibre lawyers, we work on complex yet interesting transactions and intellectually stimulating work. Early on, trainees collaborate with the firm’s international offices and are able to experience the firm’s multi-jurisdictional reach. Cleary encourages trainees to take responsibility and ownership of their work, creating an environment of learning by doing. The opportunity to take responsibility makes for an engaging experience and serves as a catapult for a trainee’s legal and professional development. Cleary offers trainees the necessary resources and tools to build and develop their legal skills to become knowledgeable lawyers creating an overall rewarding and enriching experience.”

**Safeya Al Faheem**  
Trainee Solicitor



# Training

We offer a training contract that is unique in the London market.

## **Bespoke**

We do not believe in a one-size-fits-all training solution. By recruiting 14 to 16 trainees each year, we are able to offer bespoke training that is tailored to our trainees’ interests, experience, and aptitudes.

## **Direct Responsibility**

We also do not believe that the transition from trainee solicitor to associate occurs overnight on qualification. We encourage our trainee solicitors to accept increased responsibility as soon as they are ready to do so. Given appropriate levels of supervision and support, our trainees operate as lawyers from the day that they join us.

## **International**

Our trainees can expect to travel during their training contracts. In addition, there are opportunities for our trainees to spend one of their seats in another of our offices, typically Hong Kong, New York, Paris, Washington, D.C., Abu Dhabi, Brussels, or Cologne.

## **Flexible**

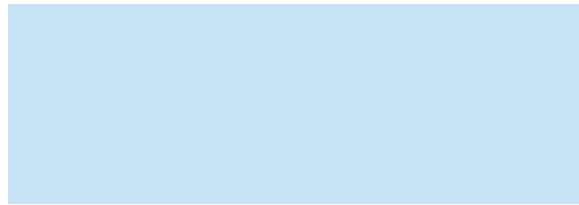
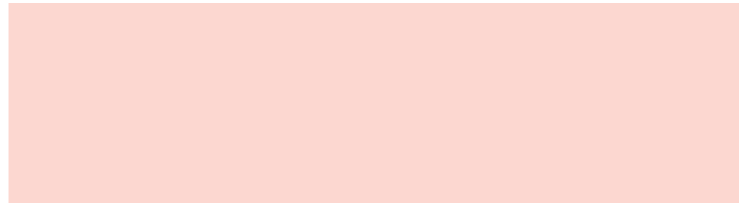
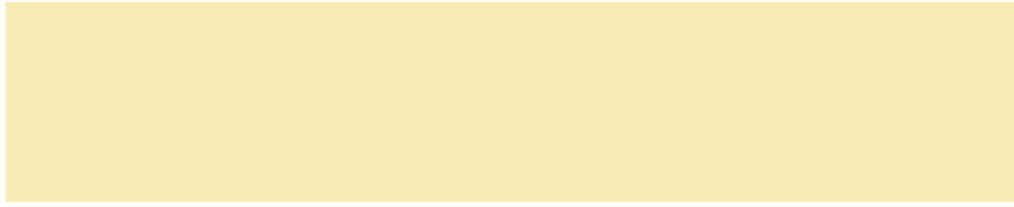
Trainees spend six months in four different seats. In each seat, they share a room with a partner, counsel, or senior associate who supervises their day-to-day workload. While a trainee solicitor will work with their supervisor for the majority of the time, we actively encourage our trainees to also work with other lawyers in the office. This allows trainees to gain experience in a broader range of matters and practice areas than they would if they only worked with their direct supervisor.

Our lack of rigid departmental boundaries or profit centres means that, unlike at many firms, trainees can see projects through from initial instruction to completion, as they have the flexibility to carry work between seats without an arbitrary cut-off after six months. We think this flexibility provides our trainee solicitors with the best possible preparation for practise as an associate of the firm.

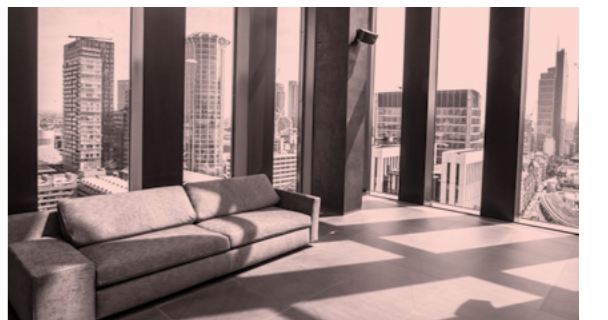
“Working with high-profile clients and household names has been the most interesting part!”

*Chambers Student Guide, 2023*

*Learn*



*Fottlieb*



# Development

## Flexibility on Qualification

On qualification, most of our trainees immediately choose to focus on a single practice area, such as competition or international litigation and arbitration. However, some choose to maintain a more wide-ranging corporate practice. This might involve, for example, an associate working on a range of M&A, capital markets and finance transactions for the first few years after qualification, before focusing in a particular area. Equipping our lawyers with broad based experience is a key part of our approach.

## Development of Our Trainees

We place great importance on the development of our trainees and on maximising their experience during the training contract. This hand-on training is supplemented by a dedicated trainee programme, which is designed to provide very real, practical support for the work undertaken by trainees across all practice areas. On qualification, learning and development continues, and associates benefit from a skills programme tailored to develop confidence and competence as their careers progress.

On arrival, all trainees are assigned a mentor from the partner, associate, and trainee population. All mentors offer support and guidance throughout the course of the training contract.

Trainees can also expect to receive a seat induction, mid-seat review, and end-of-seat appraisal, which all provide the opportunity to set and discuss expectations and to provide developmental feedback.

## The Formal Legal Training

The University of Law is our exclusive partner for the PGDL and the SQE. We are working closely with them to design a blended learning experience that will motivate and support our future trainees to fully engage with the extensive SQE curriculum before joining the firm.

Importantly, the core SQE1 and SQE2 modules will be followed by the SQE+, an intensive and tailored program focused on the needs of the firm and our key work and clients (including key practice areas, skills, and behaviours). SQE+ classes will largely (although not exclusively) be firm-specific to ensure their relevance to the Cleary trainee experience.

By frontloading the modules and structuring all SQE content in this way, we aim to ensure that our trainees can fully focus their two-year training contract on building and developing the key knowledge, skills, and relationships to thrive at the firm. Helpfully, our trainees will typically study the SQE together at the University of Law's Moorgate Campus, which will provide an invaluable opportunity to get to know each other and support each other from the very beginning.

## Organic Growth

We are dedicated to expanding our practice through organic growth. The large majority of our current partners were promoted from among our associates.

“The teaching and resources at the University of Law provided comprehensive insight into the SQE exams and how to pass them. Additional modules in M&A, debt finance and competition were directly relevant to the work at Cleary and prepared me to hit the ground running as a trainee.”

**Nicholas Phipps**  
Trainee Solicitor

“The SQE has been both challenging and rewarding. Throughout the year, I have built on my undergraduate knowledge and developed my legal practice skills. I am confident that the course and the exams have prepared me well for my future career as a solicitor.”

**Harry Renshaw**  
Trainee Solicitor



## Intellectual Property

“A seat in Intellectual Property and Data Protection allows you to become part of a close-knit team and do exciting, interesting work. Given the smaller size of the team and specialist nature of the work, you are given much responsibility early on and develop true expertise by the end of your seat. The global team meets weekly and you get to work with colleagues from other offices on virtually every matter. Given the focus on the technology sector, you undertake thought-leading and groundbreaking work; for example, I got to work on various AI-related client matters during my time in the team.”

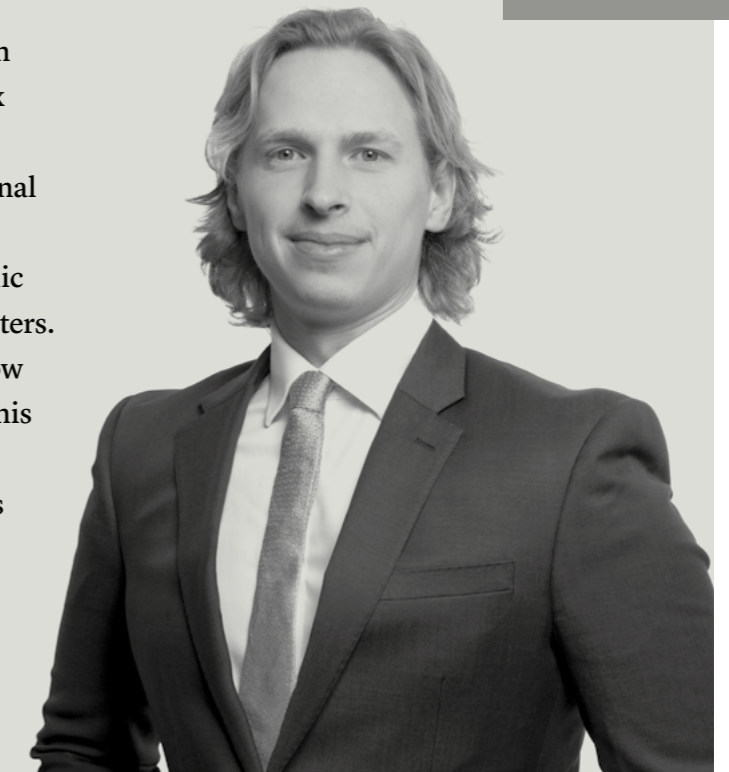
**Nicola Duemler**  
Trainee Solicitor



## M&A

“Completing an M&A seat has provided me with an invaluable opportunity to work on complex yet thought provoking high-value cross border transactions. My seat has revealed how international and diverse our M&A practice is at the London office, having been exposed to a variety of public M&A, private equity and corporate advisory matters. Cleary’s London M&A practice continues to grow and strengthen with our recent partner hires. This will provide future trainees with an invaluable opportunity to work on a broad range of matters with high calibre lawyers.”

**Edward Skowronek**  
Trainee Solicitor



## Competition

“My Competition seat has been fun. I have worked on a range of matters during my seat, including assisting on a high profile merger, advising a client on digital regulation and preparing for an upcoming conference on artificial intelligence. I have had ample opportunities to draft things from scratch and work on challenging research questions. The Competition team are welcoming and great to work with, which has made my experience even better!”

**Amanpreet Kaur**  
Trainee Solicitor





“Equality, diversity and inclusion have underpinned our culture since the day the firm was founded. We believe that our culture promotes an atmosphere in which everyone can flourish.”

**Jim Ho**  
Partner



“Cleary Gottlieb is committed to creating a culture in which all of our lawyers can thrive, providing them with tools and resources that give each person the ability to develop to their full potential regardless of identity. This commitment is demonstrated by the creation of my role in 2022; I’m the first DE&I Manager outside of the U.S, making sure that the Firm’s DE&I activities have a truly global reach and impact. ”

**Katie Tant**  
DE&I Manager, EMEA

# Diversity & Inclusion

## A Vibrant and Engaging Community

**What do diversity and inclusion** mean at Cleary Gottlieb? Simply put, you will feel like you are part of the firm from the day you arrive, ready to seize opportunities that will enrich your career.

A key reason: our Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) promotes open exchanges about diversity and inclusion matters and drive changes at the firm. Our committees’ agendas cover a wide and visible set of initiatives that range from mentoring programmes and professional development to speaker series and workshops. In London, the DEI consists of four working groups, made up of a cross section of our legal and professional staff population, focusing on BAME, LGBTQ+, Social Mobility, and Wellbeing. Initiatives and events are designed to promote inclusivity through awareness raising and education both within the firm and the wider community. In short, you will find Cleary a compelling place to work—and diverse in the broadest sense of the word.

We were the first international firm of U.S. origin to sign the Law Society’s Diversity and Inclusion Charter, the flagship diversity initiative of the legal profession. We also pride ourselves on having more than 62 female partners and counsel globally, with the first woman elected to partnership in 1978. There is an overall focus on creating an atmosphere of inclusiveness through a diverse workforce, and more than 65 languages are spoken by our lawyers around the world.

We are proud to be using Rare Recruitment’s Contextual Recruitment System (CRS) which allows us to consider achievements in the context in which they were gained. We understand that not every candidate’s achievements look the same on paper – and we want to recruit the best people, from every background.

“The camaraderie is a massive part of Cleary. It’s a cliché but everyone is genuinely so lovely to work with.”

*Chambers Student Guide, 2022*



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DIVERSITY  
RECRUITMENT  
EXCELLENCE

# Pro Bono

## Pro bono is central to who we are at Cleary.

The firm dedicates significant resources to lifting up underserved individuals and communities around the world, and our trainee solicitors in London are fully supported and encouraged to get involved in these efforts from day one.

We undertake a broad range of local and international pro bono projects that, among other things, advance human rights, economic equity, and access to justice. Following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine, Cleary has been at the forefront of global pro bono efforts to support displaced persons, and our trainees have worked across departments and offices to offer front-line legal support, secure the resettlement of refugees, and to reunite families in safety. Our trainees have additionally worked on corporate and transactional matters to support international NGOs providing urgent humanitarian support during these crises.

Our trainees regularly volunteer to assist Cleary teams representing individuals on death row; to analyse matters of human rights and public international law for organisations such as the Clooney Foundation for Justice and the Center for Reproductive Rights; to advise refugee-led start-ups with The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network; to offer urgent front-

line support to local women at the Toynbee Hall Free Legal Advice Clinic—and much more besides. We take pride in the array of legal issues we tackle pro bono, and believe such work offers exceptional training and development opportunities for our lawyers.

Alongside legal advice, we partner with the National Literacy Trust, City Solicitors Horizons, Aspiring Solicitors, and many other organisations to support the career aspirations of young people and widen access to the legal profession. All trainees are very welcome to contribute to these social mobility efforts by delivering workshops, volunteering in schools, or acting as mentors to students from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

Trainees at Cleary are not only encouraged to take part in these initiatives but also to find, lead and manage projects that interest them. Our trainees have won various awards for their efforts. In 2019, two of our trainees won the City of London Law Society’s Wig and Pen Prize for Pro Bono, becoming the first trainees ever to do so. Cleary pro bono initiatives also won the LawWorks Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership award in both 2020 and 2022. We very much hope that our future trainees will continue this success and make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of others.

“Our Pro Bono practice at Cleary engages lawyers across all of our global offices, all practice areas, and all levels of seniority. I am continually inspired by this collective effort to use our legal skills to help the most vulnerable.”

**Byron Spring**  
Pro Bono Managing Attorney, EMEA



“Cleary’s pro bono programme is a central pillar of the firm’s international identity, bringing together lawyers across different offices and practice areas to apply our legal expertise to important ends. From advising London’s local community interest companies to tackling public international law issues with global implications, pro bono at Cleary is defined by the breadth of causes and communities we work for.”

**Sabrina Stewart**  
Trainee Solicitor

“Pro Bono work is given the space to form part of one’s core legal practice right from the get-go at Cleary. Fantastic opportunities are provided to trainees here: I have been exposed to legal issues, clients, geographical locations and overall life experiences nothing short of invaluable. The responsibility that one can take on in Pro Bono matters – thoroughly supervised along the way – is truly second to none, and I encourage any aspiring lawyer to get involved as far as possible!”

**Caleb-Daniel Oyekanmi**  
Trainee Solicitor



## Employment

“During my Employment and Incentives seat, I’ve worked on deals with almost every department in the firm and have been given the right level of support and responsibility to develop as a specialist lawyer. Every day has been different, from assisting with the review of employment contracts and options documents for an M&A transaction, to advising on settlement agreements and deeds of termination. Working with experienced lawyers across Cleary’s offices, I’ve developed my drafting, analytical, legal research and attention to detail skills.”

**Joseph McShane**  
Associate



## Finance

“Finance and Restructuring has one of the most varied and dynamic practices in the London office. In my six months with the team, I’ve worked on large sovereign debt issuances, corporate refinancings and multi-national restructurings. The breadth of work means that you’re exposed to some of the best elements of life at Cleary – from fast-paced transactional matters to intellectually stimulating research and thought pieces. What’s more, the practice rewards curiosity and proactivity, with the opportunity to take on real responsibility as a trainee.”

**Noah D’Aeth**  
Trainee Solicitor



# Training Contract

## The Package

### Salary

We offer a salary and benefits package that reflects the premium nature of our practice and is commensurate with our aim to recruit the best lawyers. In addition to a 5% employer pension contribution, our salaries are:

- £57,500 for the first 12 months
- £62,500 for the second 12 months
- £164,500 on qualification

### Funding

We fund the SQE prep course for all our future trainee solicitors and provide a maintenance grant of £17,000. For non-law graduates, we also fund the PGDL and provide a maintenance grant of £12,000. We also make available to all our future trainee solicitors an interest free loan up to the value of £8,000.

### Benefits

Additional benefits include:

- 25 days’ vacation per year (exclusive of normal public holidays)
- 30 weeks’ full pay for maternity and adoption leave
- Eight weeks’ paternity leave at full pay
- £750 gym membership subsidy
- Private health care insurance
- Life insurance of twice annual salary
- Long-term disability insurance
- Critical illness coverage
- Dental insurance
- Employee assistance programme
- Bright Horizons back-up care

“The best thing about the firm is the quality of the lawyers you get to work with on a daily basis.”

*Lex 100, 2022*

# Vacation Scheme

**We actively encourage all** candidates who are considering applying to us for a trainee solicitor position to undertake a vacation placement with us, as almost all our trainee solicitors have done. We offer 70 vacation scheme places each year (across winter, spring and summer schemes) and pay £500 per week.

The vacation schemes aim to provide potential training contract applicants with a practical insight into life as a Cleary Gottlieb lawyer. Our objective throughout is to involve participants directly in client work. In addition to providing hands-on experience, the scheme incorporates a series of practice overview sessions designed to ensure exposure to the full range of work that we undertake in London. There are also social events outside the office to help participants get to know the current partners, counsel, associates, and trainees of the firm.

We receive a high number of applications for vacation scheme placements and training contracts each year. To succeed, candidates need to demonstrate exceptional academic ability. We normally expect candidates to be on course to attain a high 2.1 or better from a leading university and to have achieved the best reasonably attainable grades at secondary school, taking into account each applicant's individual circumstances. Alongside academic ability, we value evidence of extracurricular achievement. Foreign language skills are a valuable asset, but are not essential.

**“Out of the multiple vacation schemes I did, I found Cleary lawyers the most impressive.”**

*Lex 100, 2022*



**“Cleary’s emphasis on training its lawyers as problem solvers stood out to me during the Vacation Scheme.”**

Carolina Cwajg, Future Trainee Solicitor



**“Meaningful tasks and engagement defined my Vacation Scheme, with supervisors offering valuable feedback throughout. The culture and impactful international work make me eager to start my training contract.”**

Zachary Steele-Gideon, Future Trainee Solicitor

**“The vacation scheme allowed me to understand Cleary’s unique self-driven training culture first-hand and I enjoyed having the freedom to take on significant responsibility for tasks across multiple practices.”**

Jotham Ng, Future Trainee Solicitor



**“Cleary boasts the rare mix of a truly international practice, an intrinsically collaborative culture, and a genuinely supportive atmosphere. During my vacation scheme, I was able to work on sovereign debt issuances, Private Equity-backed takeovers, as well as corporate restructurings; this is a testament to the firm’s fantastic client-base.”**

Alexander Lees, Future Trainee Solicitor



**“The Vacation Scheme with Cleary allowed me to engage in intellectually stimulating work. Through collaborating on matters with Cleary’s Dubai office and meeting Summer Associates visiting from the New York office I gained a greater appreciation of the seamless integration at a truly international firm.”**

Alexander Ong, Future Trainee Solicitor





“The less rigid style of practising at Cleary appealed to me. During the Vacation Scheme, I was able to take ownership of tasks in three practice areas.”

Henry Lloyd, Future Trainee Solicitor



“On the Vacation Scheme I got to work with dynamic people from all over the world, which confirmed to me that Cleary actively cultivates its global culture.”

Mieka Loubser, Future Trainee Solicitor



“From the start of the application process, my interactions with Cleary were positive. The vacation scheme only cemented this impression, where I felt welcomed by everyone I spoke to and challenged by the tasks I was given.”

Beatrice Wong, Future Trainee Solicitor

“During my vacation scheme, I had the opportunity to work on complex matters alongside brilliant legal minds, all of whom were keen to provide support and I found this incredibly important as someone beginning their legal career.”

Pearl Hong, Future Trainee Solicitor



“The vacation scheme provided the structure of a mentorship system alongside the freedom to branch out, engage with other lawyers and trainees, and get involved in their work. I definitely felt that I directed my own experience and had the opportunity to work on a real range of interesting matters.”

Rock Bell, Future Trainee Solicitor

“My Vacation Scheme made it clear that Cleary does things with flexibility and open-mindedness.”

Anaïs Medina-Astrion, Future Trainee Solicitor



“Cleary’s unique and flexible approach to departmental boundaries and the international nature of their work first attracted me to them. I experienced these qualities first hand during my Vacation Scheme where I was given the opportunity to work on an international case that mixed both IP and M&A elements.”

Katie Akers, Future Trainee Solicitor



“Cleary’s collaborative culture was the distinguishing factor which attracted me to the firm. During the vacation scheme, I witnessed it first-hand while assisting with work spanning multiple jurisdictions and practice areas.”

Devina Srivastava, Future Trainee Solicitor

“I was drawn to Cleary because of its multi-specialist approach, its entrepreneurial culture and its world-leading reputation. I found the vacation scheme enjoyable and stimulating. Everyone in the office was also very approachable, taking the time to answer questions about all aspects of their practice area.”

Todd Horton, Future Trainee Solicitor

# When and How to Apply

All candidates should submit a cover letter and full curriculum vitae, including a breakdown by subject of all A-Level (or equivalent) results and degree results where known.

Applications for both vacation placements and trainee solicitor positions should be submitted via our website ([www.clearlygottlieb.com/careers/london](http://www.clearlygottlieb.com/careers/london)).



# Selected Honours

## Top 10 Global Elite Firm for Client Service in the UK

*The Legal 500, 2019 and 2020*

## Top Five Firm for M&A in Multiple Regions

*Bloomberg, Mergermarket, and Refinitiv league tables, H1 2023*

## Ranked No.1 in the Top 25 "Global Elite"

*Global Competition Review, 2023*

## Top 20 Firm

*Global Arbitration Review's GAR 30, 2021*

## Top 30 Restructuring Firm

*Global Restructuring Review's GRR 100, 2022*

## Corporate Team of the Year and M&A Deal of the Year (for Euronext's acquisition of Borsa Italiana from LSE)

*Legal Business Awards, 2021 and IFLR Europe Awards 2022*

## Sustainable Loan of the Year (for Barbados's \$146.5 million blue loans)

*IFR Awards, 2022*

## Restructuring Deal of the Year (for Garuda Indonesia's \$9.58 billion restructuring)

*IFLR Asia-Pacific Awards, 2023*

## International Arbitration Firm of the Year

*Legal Business Awards, 2020 and Benchmark Litigation Europe Awards, 2020*

## Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership (for Afghan Pro Bono Initiative)

*LawWorks Pro Bono Awards, 2022*

## Best New Pro Bono Activity (for The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network) and Most Effective Pro Bono Partnership (for Toynbee Hall's Free Legal Advice Centre)

*LawWorks Pro Bono Awards, 2020*

## Top 15 Firm in the Diversity Scorecard

*The American Lawyer, 2023*

## Top 15 International Law Firm

*India Business Law Journal, 2023*

## M&A Deal of the Year (for the TPG/Tata Motors Joint Venture)

*India Business Law Journal, 2022*

## Estonia Deal of the Year and Turkey Deal of the Year (for the Enefit Green privatization and Hepsiburada's IPO)

*CEE Legal Matters Awards, 2021*

## Private Equity Deal of the Year (for ThyssenKrupp Elevator acquisition)

*IFLR Europe Awards, 2021*

## Technology, Media & Telecom Deal of the Year – Large Cap

*The Deal Awards, 2021*

## 21 Practice and Lawyer Rankings

*Chambers UK 2023*

## Merger Control Matter of the Year in Europe (for Google's acquisition of Fitbit)

*Global Competition Review Awards, 2021*

## Six Awards (including International Law Firm of the Year)

*IFLR Americas Awards, 2023*

## No.1 Law Firm in Latin America

*Latinvex, 2017–2023*

## Infrastructure and Energy Projects Team of the Year (for the Republic of Iraq's gas growth integrated project)

*Law.com International Middle East Legal Awards, 2022*

## South Korea International Firm of the Year

*Chambers Asia-Pacific, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2020-23*

## Contact Us



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For more information on our London office, please visit [clearlygottlieb.com](http://clearlygottlieb.com)






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