

Chafes Hague Lambert

SOLICITORS

So you want a career in law – but how can you do it?

There are various options to consider if you want a career in law, whether you want to be a solicitor or if there is a different role you might like to do. There are several different routes you can take.

Route 1 – Law Degree. This is seen as the traditional route to a legal career. You obtain GCSE's and A levels and then go to university to study a 3 year law degree. This is followed by a Legal Practice Course (LPC) for 1 year and then a 2 year training contract within a law firm. Intense competition for training contracts mean that this option is now more difficult as law firms look for previous legal experience or excellent academic qualifications from outstanding universities.



Route 1 Case Study

**Leah Strange, Solicitor
in Tax, Trusts & Estates
Department**

Studied GCSE's at Bramhall High, A Levels at Aquinas College, Consumer Law degree and LPC at Manchester Metropolitan University, training contract at Chafes Solicitors LLP.



Route 2 Case Study

**Almas Patankar, Trainee
Solicitor in Tax, Trusts
and Estates**

Studied GCSE's and A Levels at Heckmondwike Grammar, chemistry degree at University of Nottingham. GDL & LPC at University of Law, training contract at Chafes Hague Lambert.

Route 2 – Other Degree. This is also a traditional route to law for those who didn't originally choose a legal career. As with the previous option, you obtain GCSE's and A levels, but then study any subject at university. You would follow this with a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) for 1 or 2 years, followed by the LPC 1 year and then a 2 year training contract. As with option 1, this is also a traditional route but competition is intense.

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Route 3 – Part-time study/work. This involves either route 1 or 2 above, but the LPC can be taken part time over 2 years whilst working within a law firm. This offers the advantage of a possible 6 month reduction in the 2 year training contract dependent on the type of work you have undertaken in the law firm.

Route 3 Case Study

**Chris Reece, Solicitor in Tax,
Trusts & Estate Department**



Studied GCSE's at Stockport School, A Levels at Aquinas College, Law degree at Sheffield university, Part time LPC at University of Law, Manchester whilst working, training contract at Chafes Solicitors LLP.

Route 4 – Work based learning. A less traditional route could be taken by working in a law firm straight after your A levels. Whilst working there, you can study via the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) either by correspondence or part-time study. Once you are qualified as a CILEX (and after a qualifying period of work) you could take a further exam and qualify as a solicitor. You do not need to go to university via this route.

Route 4 Case Study

**Sally Smith, Clerk in
Residential Conveyancing
Department**



Studied GCSE's at Poynton County High School, Ilex Legal Secretaries Certificate Level 2 at Manchester College of Arts & Technology, Studying for Ilex Level 3 Certificate in Law and Practice by correspondence course.

Route 5 – Apprenticeship. You could obtain a Legal Apprenticeship within a law firm. This is supported study and offers exemptions so that you could go to university (and go via route 1, 2 or 3 above), or choose route 4 and enter further along the route to becoming a CILEX. You could start this route straight after your A levels.

Route 5 Case Study

Any young person thinking about a career in law



Studied GCSE's at High School, A Levels at a 6th Form College, Legal Services Apprenticeship through a law firm and an Apprenticeship provider.

The SRA is currently consulting on a different way of qualifying. Please check the SRA website for details.

Other roles

All the above routes focus on you qualifying as a solicitor. There have been many recent changes in the legal profession and you could still work in a law firm without being a solicitor.

- Being a paralegal in a law firm doesn't require any qualifications.
- Becoming a Licensed Conveyancer allows you to help people buy and sell houses and you will have a specific qualification in this area of law. This does restrict your work to this area of law, but the qualification is cheaper to study for than ILEX. You are not able to become a solicitor via this route.

For further information or assistance please contact **Chafes Hague Lambert Solicitors**

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