

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, 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

**Emma Hanvere, Paralegal
in Tax, Trusts & Estates
Department**



Studied GCSE's and A levels at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School, Law degree at Aberystwyth University and LPC at Nottingham Law School.

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 to become a Chartered Legal Executive (CILEx) via the Institute of Legal Executives or study to become a Licensed Conveyancer via one of the Council of Licensed Conveyancers approved training providers, either routes are done by correspondence or part time study.

Route 4 Case Study

**Sarah Waddington, Partner
and Head of Investment
Property.**



Studied GCSE's at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive, A levels at Sir John Deanes, and whilst working for Chafes Solicitors studied and qualified as a Licenced Conveyancer.

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.

Currently the SRA have two key stages to qualifying as a solicitor, the first is the academic stage, the second is the vocational stage. However it is worth noting that no earlier than 2020 qualification as a solicitor will be changing and you can check the SRA website for details.

Other roles

Whilst routes one and two 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, as shown in examples three and four.

- Being a paralegal in a law firm doesn't require any qualifications.

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

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