

## **LEGAL PRACTICE COURSE STAGE 2: ELECTIVES SUBJECTS**

### **Private Client Electives**

#### **Family Law**

Family practice is changing rapidly. The recognition of different family structures is evolving all the time. The practical and legal issues arising out of the end of a relationship remain somewhat of a constant. This elective prepares you as a practitioner to assist with issues of relationship dissolution, child arrangements and financial orders. It also covers domestic abuse and children at risk of harm; important areas where a competent lawyer can assist the vulnerable in society. The elective will keep you abreast of change and the areas where public funding can still be secured.

#### **Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence**

The course is divided into two main parts. In the first part we examine how liability for personal injury is established in the workplace. This involves developing an understanding and application of both statutory and common law duties owed by employers to employees in the workplace. We examine liability for personal injury in other scenarios encountered in practice such as occupiers' liability and highway tripping claims, and in road traffic accidents. We also examine in detail the funding options for personal injury litigation open to claimants and how to advise claimants on this. In particular we consider the use of Legal Expenses Insurance and Conditional Fee Arrangements in practice. In this part of the course we also examine the application of the Limitation Act 1980 to personal injury claims.

#### **Immigration Law\***

This elective covers all aspects of immigration and asylum law including EEA Regulation and British nationality law. Law changes frequently in this area of practice, which the tutors (who are, or were, practitioners with a wealth of practical experience), are able to inform the students of as it happens. One of the teaching sessions involves an appearance before an immigration judge in the Law School's courtroom. At the end of the course, students are able to give basic advice in immigration, asylum/EEA Regulation and nationality law. Students doing the immigration elective have the option to seek exemption from Level 1 Accreditation (an extra charge is made for students taking part).

## Housing Law

In the Housing Law elective the main focus is on residential tenants and those who are homeless. We look at tenants' security of tenure with both private and social landlords and the procedure to be followed by a landlord wanting to gain possession. We consider disrepair to premises and illegal eviction and harassment of residential occupiers. Finally we consider the duties of a local authority in relation to homeless persons.

## Employment Law

This elective considers the nature of current employment law and practice, individual rights and employer obligations. It examines a number of fundamental aspects of this rapidly evolving area of law such as unfair dismissal, redundancy, TUPE, working time, discrimination and family-friendly issues. Students of this elective will develop an awareness of these employment rights and the ability to advise on them. They will also visit an employment tribunal to witness the resolution of disputes first-hand.

## Clinical Elective (through the pro bono centre)

In this elective, students have the opportunity to take part in actual client work under the supervision of qualified practitioners. Areas of work include property, housing and family.

## Commercial Electives

### Commercial Litigation

This elective may appeal to students who have enjoyed civil litigation and would like to build on this knowledge in a commercial context. The syllabus reaches beyond the confines of commercial litigation in its narrowest sense, and covers other means of commercial dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration.

The teaching programme provides an in-depth study of the law and procedure of injunctive relief in civil proceedings. We look at the specialist courts where commercial dispute actions are issued, managed and tried.

The elective studies the foreign element to commercial claims. We consider the rules that determine jurisdiction, governing law of contracts, procedure for service abroad, and the enforcement of both foreign judgments and those to be enforced outside the jurisdiction.

### Private Acquisitions

This elective will introduce you to important aspects of practice as a commercial solicitor dealing with the sale and purchase of private companies and businesses.

## Entertainment and Media Law

This elective covers aspects of law and practice in the creative industry sectors including music, film and TV, advertising, sport and the media. Extensive reference is made to contractual documentation. Subject to availability, the elective draws on guest contributions from practitioners with law firms Squire Sanders, New Media Law, Couchmans and Sheridans, and from Express Newspapers.

## Commercial Property Law

This elective looks in depth at the main contents of a typical commercial lease. The landlord-tenant relationship is obviously crucial, and so students will be building on their knowledge and understanding of landlord and tenant law, in particular the Landlord and Tenant Acts 1954 and 1996. Students will also study the key principles when acting for a developer acquiring a greenfield site for development; the secured lending principles when acting for a prospective mortgagee of development land; and the considerations that apply when acting for property traders or dealers who buy and sell reversions occupied by business tenants.

## Commercial Law

The elective complements and builds on the commercial aspects of the Business Law and Practice course, providing additional knowledge about commercial law, which will enable students to give more effective advice to a business client. The practice of commercial law exists in an international and European Union context so that students must see this as an area that is directed and changed, often rapidly, under EU and international influences. Increasingly, commercial clients, whether selling electronically or by traditional marketing methods, see their home market as being the EU.

## E-commerce

On this elective we consider a host of questions, including:

- what is the legal status of a website?
- what information must a website give its customers?
- where can an e-trader be sued?
- who owns the rights in the website?
- how to prevent infringement of third-party rights?

To find out the answers to these questions we look at and apply the relevant law to real-life situations on live websites. The small group sessions are based on case studies, and in many cases students access and view trading websites during sessions and for private study in order to advise the client.