

Trainees break with tradition to secure roles at law firms in 2014 *Innovative training model could boost social mobility in legal sector*

An innovative training contract model set up by Accutrainee has seen its second recruit of 2014 secure a newly qualified position with a law firm.

Simon Latham takes up a newly qualified position at Hausfeld & Co. LLP next week, where he is about to complete his secondment. He joins Flora Hussey, the first Accutrainee to complete the process. Flora is currently at New Quadrant Partners where she completed part of her training contract after signing up to Accutrainee's unique approach to training contracts.

Rather than follow the traditional route of seeking training contracts with a specific law firm, Accutrainees secure their training contract with Accutrainee itself and are placed with one or more law firm and/or in-house legal department. Accutrainee carries out in-depth screening of candidates before placing them, as well as supporting them throughout the training contract secondments.

Susan Cooper, CEO and founder of Accutrainee, said: "It is wonderful that already in 2014 we have been able to help two young trainees with such wonderful opportunities. We are delighted for Simon and Flora in securing the newly qualified positions with Hausfeld & Co LLP and New Quadrant Partners. It says a great deal about their individual abilities but it also says a lot about the Accutrainee model – it works. There is a strong business case for our training model particularly for legal service providers who are interested in a diverse, quality assured pool of candidates who can be taken on in a flexible, efficient, cost effective way. The time and resources we put into our selection process all year round means clients have access to an entirely different pool of talent they might have otherwise missed as well as access to newly qualified solicitors they have helped to train.

Flora Hussey said, "Accutrainee provides an excellent level of experience at a wide range of firms, allowing applicants to create a tailored training contract. I felt very well supported by the Accutrainee team throughout my training contract from the monthly meetings to discuss my portfolio and development to the ad hoc telephone calls to address any queries. This network of support was extremely important to me and is something that makes the Accutrainee training contract really stand out from others. Thanks to Accutrainee I have been able to complete my training and qualify as a solicitor securing a position at one of the firms I trained at upon qualification."

Susan Cooper continues, "There is a wider issue here around social mobility and giving law firms access to unearthed talent. The way we assess and support candidates is through a detailed screening process that looks past the snap-shot nature of strict criteria used in application forms that are often necessary. This means we discover those individuals with the raw skills ideal for law. That benefits the legal sector because it widens the talent pool and is a key initiative in taking forward social mobility in the UK's legal sector."

"There is a lot of debate going on around social mobility and legal training in the future. Accutrainee is addressing these issues now".

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