

# Your Career IN LAW



Training Contracts with  
**Wollen Michelmore**  
SOLICITORS

**We firmly believe that our trainees are the future of Wollen Michelmores. We see a training contract as an investment in each individual and an investment in the future of the firm.**

## Introduction

"At Wollen Michelmores we work closely with our trainees to give them a really valuable and hands on experience, focusing on all aspects of what it takes to become a good lawyer.

To us, this is not just two years of ticking boxes; no two training contracts are the same. Some trainees want to explore all areas of law that we offer whilst others may have a fixed view or experience in an area they would like to qualify into. We work with the trainee to tailor the contract accordingly to ensure they get the most out of it."

### **Rachel Carter**

Partner and Training Principal



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## Our Offices



## About Us

We are one of the leading law firms in Devon with offices in Torquay, Exeter, Dartmouth, Newton Abbot and Barnstaple. We have a love for Devon, as well as a passion for the work we do.

We've been serving the Devon legal community for the last 150 years and during the last decade we've grown significantly. We have 5 offices that stretch from coast to coast in Devon and we employ 185 staff.

The services we offer have been recognised externally; earlier this year we were awarded 'Leading Law Firm of the Year (11+partners)' at the Devon and Somerset Law Society Awards. In 2017 we were awarded a Law Society Excellence Award for our Private Client Practice and a Solicitor's Journal Award for our Family Team.

We have the benefit of being in an amazing location whilst undertaking complex and rewarding work nationally and locally. With a training plan that aims to progress a trainee's career, not just tick a box, and a high retention rate of our trainees on qualification, you need look no further for your future career in law.

## Our Core Activities and Specialisms

We cover all aspects of law from individual needs such as Clinical Negligence and Family, to Business and Commercial requisites such as Company and Commercial Law and Commercial Property.

We also undertake specialist work such as Leisure and Tourism, Licensing and Gambling and Marine Law.



## Your Career Path

To become a solicitor requires a great deal of hard work and determination. Prior to making an application for a training contract you will need to satisfy certain educational requirements as set out below.

This is the typical training path:



## Our Training Contracts

We provide tailor-made training specific to each individual and have a successful record of taking on our trainees into full time positions, once they qualify.

Our two year training contract will ensure you have experience across a broad range of areas, including:

- Commercial property
- Commercial litigation
- Company commercial
- Court of Protection
- Probate and wills
- Trusts and charities
- Dispute Resolution including: employment, professional negligence, contentious probate etc
- Medical negligence
- Personal injury
- Residential property
- Family law (public and private)

You will undertake appropriate fee earning work including taking on some of your own cases that you will be expected to run from start to finish, with full support. This will involve direct client contact, giving legal advice and drafting pleadings etc. You are not here to be the office junior but to get fully involved in the work and the cases we deal with. There is no better way to learn.

Each seat is usually for a period of six months and you will be allocated a supervisor during each seat, who will mentor you through the process. You will also have regular reviews with the training principal.

## Application and Selection Process

We invite applications a year in advance and have a deadline of 31 July in the year prior to the start of the training contract. We aim to recruit two trainees per year.

The training contract will usually start on the first Monday in September.

We aim to have selected applicants who we would like to interview within four weeks of the deadline. Interviews will usually be with at least two partners and the HR Director.

## What We Look For

As well as a good academic background, we will look at what experience an applicant has of the law and of work/life generally. If we can see that an applicant has a passion for the law that will go a long way.

Commercial awareness is really important to us as are good communication skills. We know you want a training contract, what we really want to know is why you want it with us!

## What We Offer

As well as our tailored training with a competitive salary, we offer the following benefits:

- Performance related bonus
- Contributory pension
- Generous holiday including an extra day for your birthday as well as extra time over Christmas
- An employee referral scheme
- Staff and family discount of legal services (after qualifying period)
- Local perks such as tickets to Paignton Zoo
- A discounted shopping portal



## What our trainees say

### Beth Donnelly

Trainee Solicitor

"Having had the benefit of working at the firm for some time before my training contract started, I was sure that Wollen Michelmores was the right firm for me and my future career goals. Those who you will work closely with take the time to explain and teach their technical knowledge allowing you to have a hands-on approach with clients. As you rotate through at least four seats of the training contract each department makes a real effort to include you in the social aspects of the department so you never feel out of place."



### Rob Newton

Trainee Solicitor

"The firm offers a great environment to learn from others and provides you with opportunities and early responsibility in dealing with clients and your own cases. The variety of the work is immense and the firm's open-door policy gives you a real sense of a supportive and engaging law firm, where your skills and experience are nurtured and developed to maximise your potential."



### Faye Newcombe

Trainee Solicitor

"I have always found that Wollen Michelmores allow and encourage their trainees to have a substantial amount of client contact from the beginning of each seat within the training contract. It is a busy working environment with ample opportunity to sit in on client meetings through which you build confidence to then meet with clients on your own. I have found this to be an extremely useful way of building and developing the knowledge obtained on the LPC."



## The world never stands still. And neither do we.

"We have made significant investment into the firm in terms of growth and adapting with the changing tides. We have recently completed our fourth merger in under seven years. We have made significant investment into our technology and IT to ensure our team can always provide the high level of client service that we strive for and to work as team regardless of the distance between the offices.

We also provide innovative client service and costing training for all fee earners including our trainees.

But it's not just about expansion, winning awards or developing our brand. It's about harmony and lasting connections. It's about working with our community, it's about helping, protecting, fighting for, and serving our clients.

If you share these values, we would love to hear from you."

### Chris Hart

Chief Executive





# Wollen Michelmore

## SOLICITORS

Offices at: **Torquay** | **Exeter** | **Newton Abbot** | **Dartmouth** | **Barnstaple**  
[www.wollenmichelmore.co.uk](http://www.wollenmichelmore.co.uk)