

BPP Employability Service

NEWSLETTER—JUNE 2020

The Employability Service is the collaboration of the Careers and Pro Bono teams with the one simple aim of ‘building careers through education’.



I want to start by thanking all students who have taken my advice from the last edition and engaged with the Employability Service. You'll see from our feedback below, those students who have engaged feel they have upskilled themselves during this period of uncertainty. I'd encourage you all to keep on engaging and do get in touch with Careers or Pro Bono if you aren't sure where to start, they are a helpful bunch.

Congratulations to the Pro Bono Team who were crowned Best Contribution by a Law School in the LawWorks & Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards 2020, a well deserved accolade at any time, but particularly pertinent at the moment, when the demand is high for the services they provide.

David Tomas-Merrills
National Head of Employability

Meet the Employability Service Management Team



Andy Hawley
Head of Careers—Manchester



Emma Blackstone
Joint Head of Pro Bono



Iain Moss
Careers Information Manager



Joe Wilkes
Head of Careers Law and Health—
London and South



Kate Bassett
Head of Careers—Leeds



Lucy Wildig
Joint Head of Pro Bono



Onika Gregory
Head of Careers—School of
Business and Technology

Spotlight on Careers

What did you do during the Coronavirus pandemic to acquire new skills and gain relevant experiences?

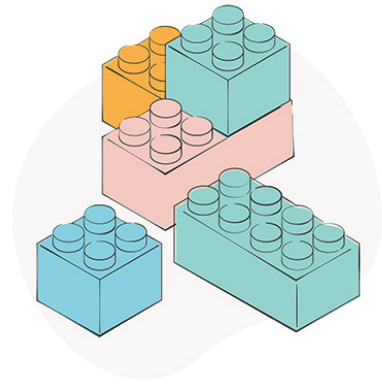
It has been suggested that a future interview question for vacation scheme/training contracts, and other interviews, could be ‘what did you do during the Coronavirus pandemic to acquire new skills and gain relevant experiences?’ Some of the strongest candidates at future interviews will have a lot to speak about in this respect.

Once you’ve finished your exams (and had a rest!), it is important to try and continue to gain work and voluntary and extra-curricular experiences. This might involve volunteering within your local community, getting involved in pro bono and/or securing further legal or commercial work experiences.

Why not book an appointment with

Joe Wilkes

Head of Careers, Law, Health and Nursing, London and South



a BPP Careers Consultant to discuss your situation and look at your options?

Book an online appointment through Microsoft Teams, Skype or phone:
<https://careerhub.bppuniversity.ac.uk/students/appointments/>

or Join our Professional Development Webinars: <https://careerhub.bppuniversity.ac.uk/students/events>

Pro Bono Update

ELTAL online training session 18 May 2020



Just before lockdown commenced, our award-winning Employment Law Telephone Advice Line (ELTAL) project was set up to run remotely with student and lawyer volunteers making calls from their homes, in order to continue providing members of the public with much needed employment law advice. During this period, the remote project has so far received 68 enquiries from the public.

To boost volunteer numbers and to

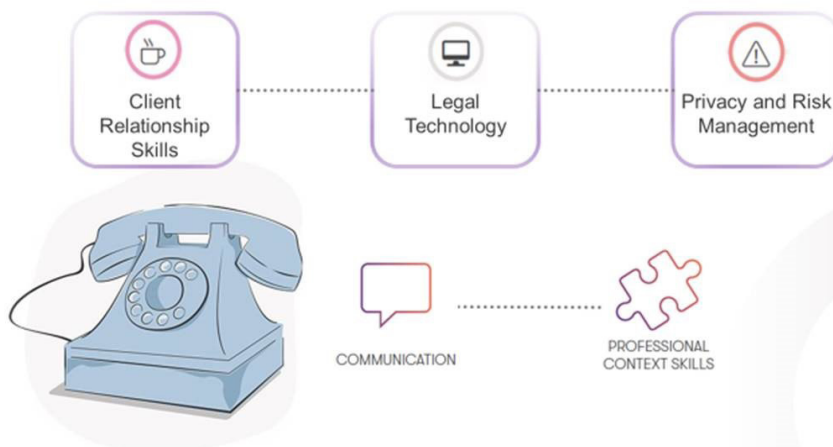
ensure a healthy team of volunteers are working over the summer months, Laura Richards, London Pro Bono Manager, recruited and delivered an online ELTAL training session to 80 new students on Monday 18 May 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

The new student volunteers are now all set to start their volunteering for ELTAL and to continue the excellent work the service provides.

Want to be part of our new online service?

Pro Bono projects give students the best opportunities to increase their employability whilst achieving a sense of social responsibility. For more information on which ones you can get involved with right now, please visit the VLE or email probono@bpp.com.

Employment Law Telephone Advice Line



Employability Recognition Awards

Friday 5 June 2020

Each year, we recognise and celebrate the work of our fantastic student volunteers through the BPP Pro Bono Centre. Without the dedication, passion and hard work of our student teams, the Pro Bono Centre would not be able to deliver the vital advice and education services that make such a difference to our local and national communities.

We may still be in lockdown, but we're not going to let that stop us celebrating our students' achievements! Pro Bono team staff have nominated the winners of this year's Awards—which include the 'Dream Team', 'Inspiring Others' and 'Plate Spinning' categories.

Each day, from Monday 1 June, we will release on social media details of our Award winners, culminating with the Awards event on Friday 5 June, hosted by the Head of Employability, David Tomas-Merrills and the joint Heads of Pro Bono, Emma Blackstone and Lucy Wildig, where the winners of our 'Outstanding Contribution' Award will



be announced.

All students who have achieved their pro bono certificate will also be acknowledged at the Awards event in our 'Pro Bono Centre Roll of Honour'.

Invitations for the online Awards will be sent to student volunteers' BPP email—so keep an eye on your inbox and make sure you can join us. Remember to follow the Pro Bono Centre on Twitter @ProBonoBPP or Facebook to keep updated on our other Award winners during the week.

We look forward to seeing you on the 5 June!

From the profession: Resilience in the Face of Rejection

Some useful advice from Nicola Wilding, an associate at DLA Piper; she views setbacks as part of the journey rather than a reflection of her as a person. She was rejected at the end of two vacation schemes with significant national firms and was unsuccessful in securing a training contract with either firm.

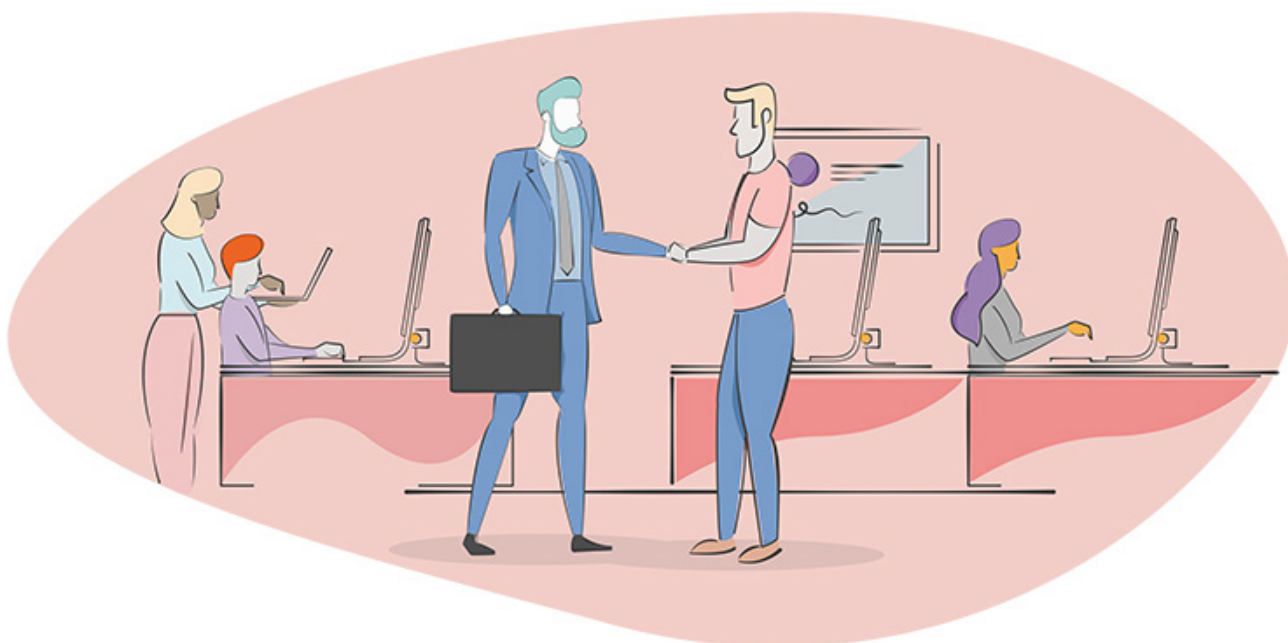
She also gives some practical advice in terms of A, B, C:

- Ask for feedback—“no” may actually be more of a “not right now”. Negative feedback, will help you develop and improve.
- Believe in yourself—know your value—each individual has something different to offer a law firm. Look at your skills and what

sets you apart from your peers. “If you don’t believe in yourself, no one else will”. A hairdresser who appears nervous leaves you sat there with no idea what your hair is going to look like at the end. That is the same for someone interviewing you for a training contract; if you appear confident, then the interviewer is much more likely to let you loose with the proverbial scissors.

- Connect—with like-minded junior lawyers who are seeking a training position by joining your local JLD and attending JLD forums which are listed on the JLD’s website.

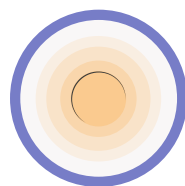
Read more at <https://www.thelawyer.com/resilience-applying-training-contracts/>



Career Ready Skills

BPP University is revising its list of 'Career Ready Skills'. These are the skills, behaviours and attitudes we know are required for students to either enter the professional workplace or advance within it.

The list includes Professionalism, Management and Leadership, Self-Development, Analytical and Technological, Problem Solving, Communication, Emotional Intelligence, Resilience and Wellbeing, Teamwork, Innovation.



A few ways for you to increase your 'Career Readiness' during June are:

- Attend the Legal Geek Online Conference on Tuesday 23 June
- Book a careers appointment to have your CV or applications reviewed
- Book your place at our Career Alternatives to the Bar webinar on Thursday 18 June
- Attend our Building a Career in Psychology webinar on Friday 12 June
- Attend the Virtual City Careers Conference - Breaking Boundaries

& Empowering Success by Generation Success on Wednesday 3 June

- Book your place at our Online Recruitment Methods in the Selection Process webinar with Stefi Contardo from Eversheds Sutherland on Thursday 11 June
- Submit your CV or job applications for review via the Ask a Question feature of CareerHub

For more details, see the 'Further Information' section on the next page and/or communications from the Employability Service at your centre.

For more information



bit.ly/bppcareerhub
probono.bppuniversity.ac.uk



Pro Bono: probono@bpp.com