



THE GUERNSEY BAR

**THERE'S
MORE
TO LAW
THAN
LAWYERS**

GUERNSEYBAR.COM

Becoming a lawyer is not the only career option the legal profession can offer. There are many other opportunities, as well as a number of support service roles, if you are interested in working in and around the law.

LEGAL CAREERS

Core careers available within the law are:

- Lawyer (Advocate)*
- Paralegal
- Court Clerk
- Conveyancing Clerk
- Legal Secretary
- Support services (e.g. Human Resources, Marketing, IT, Business Development, Office Management, Risk and Compliance)

*More details about qualifying as a Guernsey Advocate can be found on The Guernsey Bar website: GUERNSEYBAR.COM

WORKING IN THE LAW

Hear the thoughts of some local people working in the legal profession.

LAWYER (ADVOCATE)

[SIMON GEALL, AFR](#)

Simon specialises in civil litigation and employment law.

“When I was at school my Mum and Dad said I would make a good lawyer because I used to argue a lot! Joking apart, I have always been interested in challenging different points of view on all manner of topics, ranging from sport to politics, and the idea of a Court judging disputes, and ultimately settling them, really appealed to me.

I completed my Law degree and Bar qualifications before returning to Guernsey. During my training I undertook ‘seats’ in different departments, gaining experience across a range of practice areas, before studying for the Guernsey Bar exams, and attending Caen University for four months. I then qualified as an Advocate appearing before the Guernsey Courts and Tribunals.”

PARALEGAL

[BEN LE PAGE, COLLAS CRILL](#)

Law graduate Ben is gaining valuable experience before he begins a training contract to become a Solicitor.

“I work in the Commercial Department and assist lawyers in the practice areas of banking, funds and mergers and acquisitions, as well as general commercial work.

No day is the same. I discuss cases with the lawyers, conduct research and draft documents, ranging from agreements for local businesses to complex finance documents for international banking transactions, as well as attending meetings with clients.

I have always loved problem solving. Finding solutions to complex legal problems can often be academically challenging but very rewarding.”

COURT CLERK

[JANA VALKOVSKA, MOURANT OZANNES](#)

“You don’t need any formal legal qualifications but you do need to be very organised, have good attention to detail as well as common sense. Some clerks go on to take legal executive exams even though this is not essential.

The majority of my time is spent helping Advocates prepare for cases by filing the correct paperwork with the Court as well as keeping up-to-date diaries of the firm’s court matters. I also liaise with the Greffe and Sergeant’s offices, help research cases and deal with straightforward applications.

To be a Court Clerk you need an interest in the law and particularly Guernsey’s law with all its quirks.

What I love about my job is that every day is different and there is no time to get bored.”

CONVEYANCING CLERK

SAMANTHA SARRE, BABBÉ

"A member of my family has been in conveyancing for over 30 years and invited me to shadow him for a week. I loved the variety of the job and decided I wanted to go down a similar path.

Now a Conveyancing Clerk, I have day to day responsibility for the client's file and am their first point of contact. My job involves liaising with estate agents and other firms' conveyancing departments as well as researching title to properties, conducting site visits, drafting legal documents and attending court.

Ultimately I aim to become a Conveyancing Manager. As well as managing the department, you are also responsible for the larger, more complex projects.

You do not need to have any formal qualifications as you are given on-the-job training, although a high standard of English and good communication skills are essential. French skills are advantageous."

LEGAL SECRETARY

LUCRETIA EXALL, CAREY OLSEN

"I have always had a keen interest in law and a legal secretarial role appealed to me as not only

was it challenging but it also enabled me to gain an insight into the legal profession.

Before I took on a permanent role at Carey Olsen, I was offered some work experience which I thoroughly enjoyed. This helped me decide that a career in a legal environment was right up my street.

I joined Carey Olsen as a Junior Secretary and now work for three lawyers providing broad secretarial support as well as assisting other secretaries in the firm."

OFFICE MANAGER

ANNIE ZUNINO, BEDELL

At 17 Annie was offered a job within a local law firm as an office junior and over the years gained more and more experience, working her way up to her current position as office manager.

"As office manager I am responsible for maintaining the day-to-day running of the firm and making sure that everyone has what they need to do their jobs as well as they can.

I love the variety of my job as no two days are ever the same. I do anything and everything from office moves and interviews to arranging Christmas parties."

BURSARIES

A number of Guernsey's law firms and legal institutions offer bursary schemes to students wishing to study law. More details can be found on the careers page of The Guernsey Bar website: GUERNSEYBAR.COM





LAWYER

SIMON GEALL, AFR

"I specialise in civil litigation and employment law. I love the variety of work and challenges my job presents, as well as meeting and assisting all different kinds of people."



LEGAL SECRETARY

LUCRETIA EXALL, CAREY OLSEN

"My job is really rewarding as I help make the lawyers' jobs a little easier. It requires a high degree of accuracy, good computer skills and an eye for detail."



CONVEYANCING CLERK

SAMANTHA SARRE, BABBÉ

"I love the variety my job offers, from liaising with clients and researching properties to site visits. A high standard of English and good communication skills are beneficial."

PARALEGAL

BEN LE PAGE, COLLAS CRILL

"My job is seen as a stepping stone to becoming a qualified lawyer. Good grades at GCSE and A Level are important before embarking on any formal training."



COURT CLERK

JANA VALKOVSKA, MOURANT OZANNES

"The majority of my day is spent helping Advocates prepare for cases. To be a court clerk you need a high standard of English, good communication skills and a strong attention to detail."



OFFICE MANAGER

ANNIE ZUNINO, BEDELL

"I love the variety of my job – no two days are ever the same. I am responsible for ensuring everyone has what they need to do their jobs as well as they can."