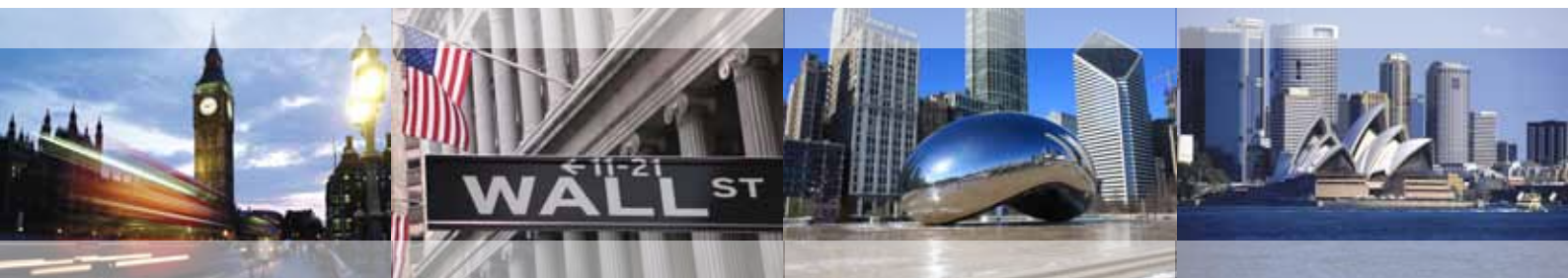


SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP  
**SIDLEY**



*The best of both worlds...*

**Opportunities for trainee solicitors**

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# *We are Sidley Austin LLP*

We are the London office of one of the world's premier international law firms, with approximately 1,700 lawyers working in our global network.

## *Around the world*

We assist many businesses, financial institutions, governments and individuals globally. As a trainee, you will experience the international side of Sidley, not through constant travel but by working on multi-jurisdictional matters and with people from around the world. We have a reputation for working on innovative, complex transactions, which makes life here all the more interesting and challenging. Culturally, we are very open, friendly and down to earth.

## *In London*

We have approximately 120 lawyers, including 39 partners.

## *Our main practice areas are:*

- Corporate
- Competition
- Corporate Reorganisation & Bankruptcy
- Debt & Equity Capital Markets
- Debt Finance, including Structured Finance, Debt Restructuring, and Derivatives
- Employment
- Financial Services Regulatory
- Hedge Funds
- Insurance
- IP/IT
- Litigation
- Real Estate & Real Estate Finance
- Tax



*We're very relaxed here.  
People are approachable; it's  
a supportive environment.  
That's very much the Sidley way.*

**Elizabeth Uwaifo**  
Partner

## One of the world's finest law firms

**We offer the best of both worlds: the clients and work of one of the largest international law firms and the relaxed down-to-earth friendliness of a smaller office.**

A world of high-quality work on a par with magic circle firms. A world where you can learn and develop in a genuinely enjoyable environment.

An energetic, meritocratic and supportive world. A world of opportunities for you to get involved and make your mark – from trainee right through to partner.

Sidley is recognised for service and responsiveness. Sidley received the most first-tier national rankings of any U.S. law firm in the inaugural *U.S. News* – Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” rankings for 2010 and was named as one of the “Best Law Firms to Work For.” We have also been widely recognized for our pro bono and diversity programmes.



**We are looking for a few outstanding trainees.  
Each year we take on around 10 recruits.**

We're looking for people who are bright, with outstanding academic qualifications. You'll need to have a minimum of three A-levels (at least two A grades and one B), and to have (or be expected to achieve) at least a 2.1 degree or equivalent (not necessarily in law).

Beyond pure academic ability, we're looking for interested and interesting people.

People who are genuinely intrigued by the commercial world, and the world of finance in particular.

People who are sociable, who can work well with others and get on well with clients.

People who have demonstrated self-discipline, the ability to persevere and to take the initiative.

Our work is complex. So it helps if you are genuinely curious about how, for example, a deal works. If you can focus, analyse things and ask the right questions, you'll be in a strong position.

**Trainee Solicitor**  
**Philip Blyghton**

English, St. Anne's College, Oxford

**I chose to apply to Sidley for two main reasons. First, the chance to engage with high-profile clients on complex and cutting-edge transactions. Second, the fact that it recruits a relatively small number of trainees each year which suggested to me that trainees are highly valued within the firm's structure and are given responsibility at an early stage.**

I am confident that being part of a smaller intake will ensure my potential is recognised early on.

I was interviewed by two of the firm's partners shortly after completing the online application form and verbal reasoning test. The interview was challenging but developed spontaneously unlike some other interviews I had attended. My interviewers seemed genuinely interested in me and my reasons for choosing a career in law.

I also had the opportunity to meet with a current trainee who was incredibly friendly and answered my informal questions about life at the firm.

Shortly after my interview one of the interviewing partners phoned me to communicate the firm's training contract offer which I was delighted to accept.

Once I had accepted and prior to joining, the firm updated me about developments and invited me to firm social events. I am looking forward to attending a drinks reception for all future trainees and having the opportunity to meet the trainees who will join the firm in 2012 and 2013.







**Trainee Solicitor**  
**Caitlin McErlane**

Law, Downing College, Cambridge

**I recently completed a seat in the Competition team and had a fantastic experience.**

I worked on a large merger that had been reported in the press and helped out with an academic article that one of our lawyers had published. The Competition team also works closely with the Brussels office and I travelled to meet our team there (fortunately speaking French was not a prerequisite!) Although the work was challenging, I had fantastic support from my supervisor and the other lawyers in the group, who took the time to explain tasks properly and make sure that I understood how they fit into the wider context of the law.





SIDLEY  
AUSTIN LLP





## **Newly Qualified Associate** **Chris Jessup**

Business and Political Science, Trinity College, Dublin

**I was initially attracted by the firm's global presence – it is one of very few firms with genuine capabilities across the globe.**

I have recently qualified into the Financial Services Regulatory group, having completed my third trainee seat there.

As an NQ and as a trainee I have been given challenging tasks and the responsibility to resolve problems with the support of the group. I have been encouraged to engage directly with clients at meetings, over the phone and by email. Although starting in a new department every six months can be quite daunting, colleagues at all levels have always been extremely supportive and approachable.

Tailored training sessions are also regularly provided which have helped prepare me for the type of tasks I may be required to carry out on any given day.

I work on international projects with colleagues from overseas offices. Opportunities exist for overseas secondments and that is something I see as part of my future career at the firm.

**Associate  
Vishal Mawkin**

Law, University College London.

**I am a first year associate in the Capital Markets group and have already been exposed to a variety of projects.**

Currently I am involved with a “drawdown” of a euro medium-term note programme of a global bank, which is a facility allowing it to raise capital on the debt capital markets. I worked on the initial drafting of core documents and have had to liaise with our clients and the bank on a number of regulatory and commercial issues. This transaction has given me an opportunity to take a pivotal role on an international deal requiring me to utilise my negotiation and organisational skills. It’s been a challenging but rewarding year.





# A day in the life of...

## Dasha Popova:

Economics and Economic History, York

During her seat in the Financial Services Regulatory group

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**8.30am:** On the way to work I check my emails and scan through the Bloomberg news headlines. A piece on a recent data privacy breach catches my eye so I read that before squeezing in a couple of pages of the book that I'm currently reading.

**9.10am:** While sipping my morning coffee, I read the financial services and regulatory updates. Given the current economic climate, there are many regulatory developments occurring both on the UK and the EU fronts. It is important to keep up to speed with the current events as you never know when your supervisor might get a call from a client expecting detailed knowledge of a particular piece of new legislation. As a trainee, I would be required to assist with the research and drafting of a memo if requested by a client.

**9.30am:** My supervisor is away on business in Brussels. We are advising a client in relation to their lobbying strategy on the rather controversial draft EU Directive on Alternative Investment Fund Managers. As expected, there has been a flurry of activity prior to my supervisor's departure. This involved numerous conference calls, scheduling of meetings with the key European politicians, keeping up to speed with the industry comments and preparing a position paper to be used as a reference point at the meetings. With my supervisor out of the office, I was hoping to clear a few things off my to-do list which at this point includes a variety of know-how projects and practice development initiatives. The ability to get involved in these projects allows you to improve your legal knowledge in an applied fashion. However, learning how to manage your time and to prioritise the numerous tasks that you are given is a big part of the job as a trainee. As such any client-specific work takes priority and we are never short of it in the regulatory group. So the know-how projects have recently taken a back seat. A new compromise proposal of the Belgian presidency regarding the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive that is currently being discussed at the European level has just been published. Before I left last night, an associate in my group asked me to help her out with summarising the issues that are most relevant to the financial services firms. I finish reading the 206 page document.

**10.50am:** The associate and I discuss the issues that we should bring to the attention of our group. I start drafting an email to be sent to the group. These types of tasks are more time consuming than you initially imagine them to be. Although I was hoping to finish it off before lunch, there were a few points in the new compromise text that required some further research before I could write anything meaningful about them.

**12.10pm:** All the London trainees receive an email from one of the other groups in the firm asking for a trainee to volunteer with some urgent proof-reading of a prospectus that must go live shortly. As I am about to respond saying that I would be happy to help out as I am not involved in any urgent client-related work, another email pops up in my inbox informing us that a volunteer has been found. One thing you notice straight away about Sidley is the friendly and supportive environment where people are happy to work hard.

**1.00pm:** It is sunny outside, which makes a pleasant change to the typical English weather, and there are no in-house training sessions today. All this makes for a perfect opportunity to catch up with other trainees while enjoying an al-fresco lunch at the Whitecross market which is just around the corner from the office.

**2.00pm:** Back at my desk and I am finalising the summary of the new compromise text.

**2.50pm:** I have been asked by of Counsel in our group to prepare the first draft of an article on the EU legal developments in relation to e-Invoicing. This is not an area that I am particularly familiar with and there are a number of lengthy reports that have been prepared by the European Commission's Expert Group on e-Invoicing and industry experts that I need to familiarise myself with before I can start writing the article.

**3.40pm:** A partner and an associate in our group have just come off a call with a client. They ask me to prepare a table of short selling restrictions adopted by the EU member states and a number of other jurisdictions where the client has operations. There are precedents that I could use but they are either not most up to date or they do not cover all the countries in which we are

interested. The task is not urgent and will take a few days to complete but it's best to get cracking.

**4.15pm:** I am asked to carry out the necessary Know-Your-Customer checks. The Anti-Money Laundering legislation requires law firms to carry these out before taking on clients. The UK legislation is risk-based and as such different types of companies require a different standard of due diligence to be performed. On this occasion the proposed client is a subsidiary of a listed company which means that the client due diligence is relatively straightforward. I perform the necessary checks and client due diligence documentation for the partner to review and sign.

**5.30pm:** I continue to read the e-Invoicing related reports and concurrently I begin noting down what I believe are the most interesting and relevant points.

**7.10pm:** Before heading home, I need to pay a visit to a bar that I have short-listed for our upcoming get-together for the London Committee on Retention and Promotion of Women. I am a member of the internal sub-committee and I have taken on the responsibility of organising this particular event. Sidley is that rare combination of a successful global law firm and a professional service workplace where women thrive. Sidley has won a number of prestigious awards over the years recognising its commitment to promoting and expanding opportunities for women. Internal events such as that I am currently organising provide the best possible opportunity to get to know your female colleagues in an informal environment. Being a trainee, I am right at the beginning of what I hope to be a successful legal career. This social event would provide a further opportunity to learn from the experiences of my more senior colleagues.

# Join us and you stand to gain a great deal...

## Salaries and benefits

Our trainee solicitors currently receive an annual salary of £39,000 in their first year and £43,000 in their second. Our NQ salary is £72,000. We review salaries annually.

As a trainee you will also benefit from an attractive and competitive total compensation package including:

- Twenty five days holiday per year
- Private medical insurance
- Pension
- Income protection insurance
- Life assurance
- Contribution to gym membership
- In-house gym
- Subsidised staff restaurant
- Season ticket loan
- Walk-in GP service
- Regular Wellman/Wellwoman medicals
- Employee assistance programme

## GDL/LPC Details

We offer financial assistance to our future trainee solicitors for the GDL and the LPC (fast-track) courses. We expect both courses to be studied at BPP Law School. We pay the fees and also provide an annual maintenance grant of currently £7,000.

## During your training

You will have many opportunities to learn and develop during your training. You will get involved in real work from day one and gain experience of working for a number of people on different matters.

We like to take a flexible approach driven by your ability and willingness to contribute and develop. As a result, you can get as much as you like out of a particular seat, depending on how much you invest in it.

## Continuing your career with us

When you join us we'd like it to be for the long term and we have an excellent track record of retaining trainees on qualification. Ideally, you will stay at Sidley once you've qualified and continue developing with us all the way to partnership.

## Like to apply?

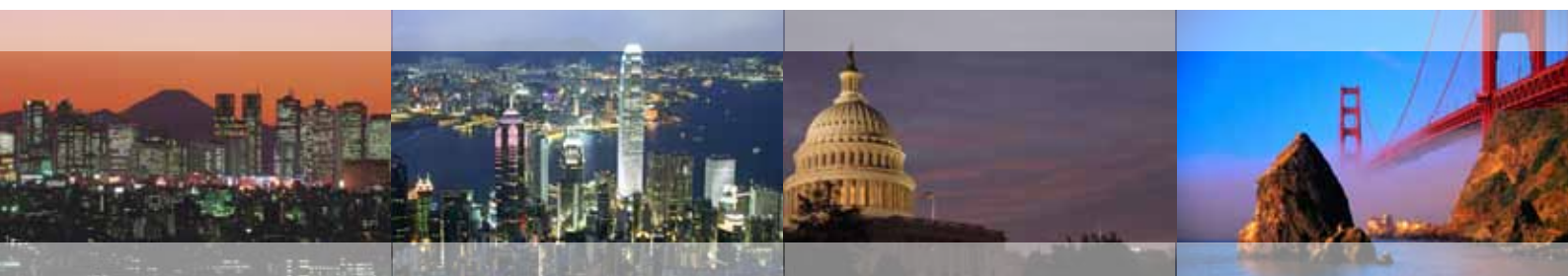
If you'd like to apply for a training contract please visit <http://www.sidley.com/careers/world/london/trainee.asp> to apply online.

Applications for training to commence in September 2014 must be received by 31st July 2012.

We invite a number of applicants to attend an interview with two partners. You will also be asked to complete a critical reasoning test. This is followed by the opportunity to meet and talk to existing trainees and associates informally.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please contact [ukrecruitment@sidley.com](mailto:ukrecruitment@sidley.com) or call **020 7360 3600**.





[www.sidley.com](http://www.sidley.com)

BEIJING | BRUSSELS | CHICAGO | DALLAS | FRANKFURT | GENEVA | HONG KONG | LONDON | LOS ANGELES  
NEW YORK | PALO ALTO | SAN FRANCISCO | SHANGHAI | SINGAPORE | SYDNEY | TOKYO | WASHINGTON, D.C.