

EMPLOYABILITY -
UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

RT Coopers Solicitors

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(RTC)
RTCoopers
Solicitors

INTRODUCTION

- Who We Are
- What We Do
- Routes Into Legal Profession
- Typical Day In The Life Of A Commercial Trainee(!)
- Important Considerations for Individuals Seeking to Enter The Profession
- At The Interview

WHO WE ARE

- Specialist Commercial Law firm in the City of London
- Focus on Technological advances in a range of sectors
- Specialising in IP – strong expertise in this area.
- Work closely with Inventors, start-ups, universities, spin-outs, charities, corporate organisations

WHO WE ARE

- **Team**
- Our UK team comprises
 - Partners
 - Assistant Solicitors
 - Trainee Solicitors
 - Paralegals
 - Patent Agents
 - Accountants
- We assemble the right team for an instruction, which may include lawyers forming part of our global network

WHO WE ARE

- **RT Coopers Capabilities**

Key Qualities Driving Success:



Personal Service - dedication and commitment, knowledge and experience of the highest level

Value for Money - meeting your instructions without compromise

Involvement - hands on approach and availability

Innovation –creative solutions to complex legal and commercial problems; developing and applying progressive techniques

Experience – We are at the cutting edge of technology and are leaders in our fields

PRACTICE AREAS

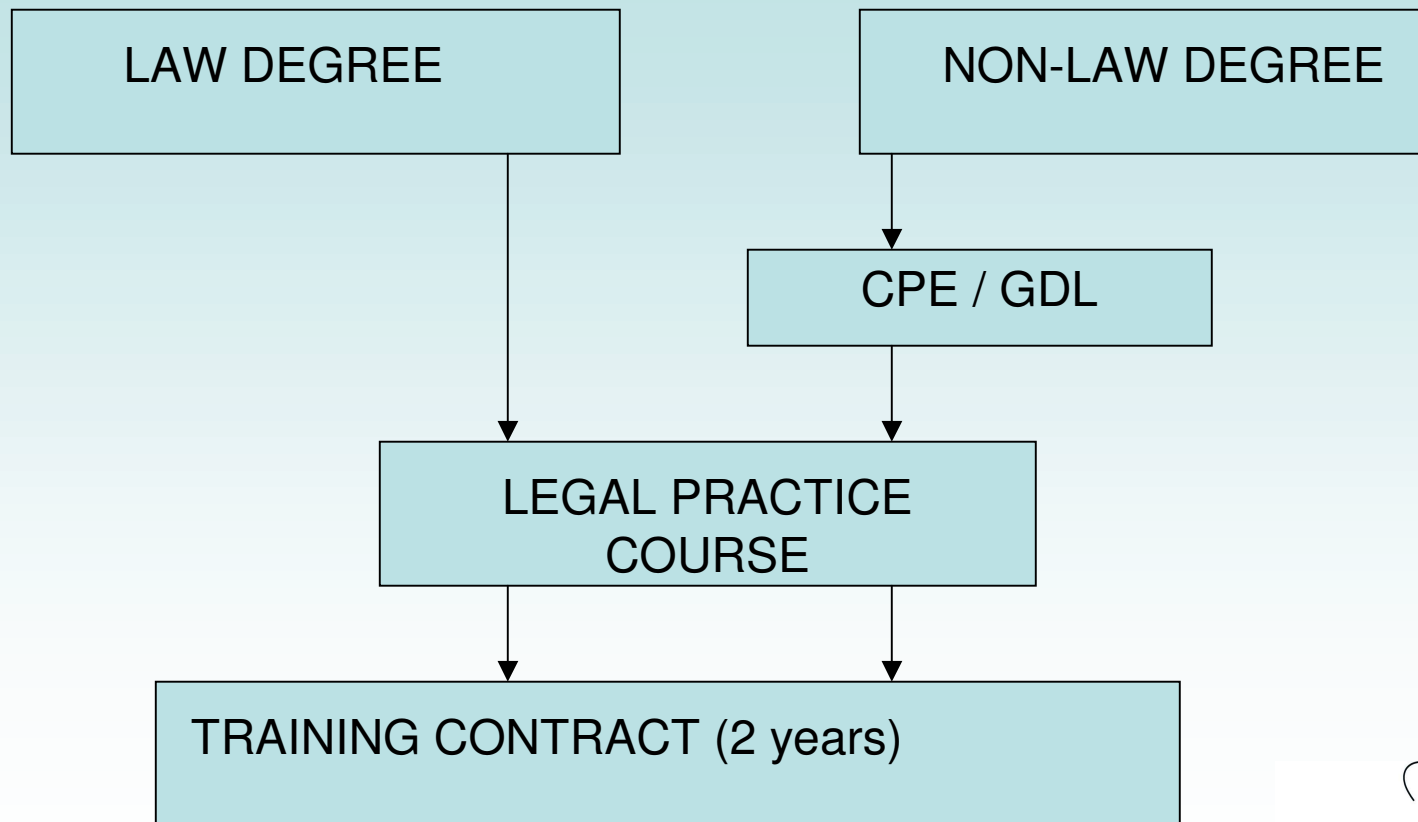
- **Key Practice Areas**

- Biotechnology
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate Commercial*
- Corporate Finance
- Data Protection
- Employment
- Information Technology
- Intellectual property*
- Media and Entertainment*
- Pharmaceutical
- Private Equity and Venture capital
- Sports Law*
- Technology Transfer

ROUTES INTO PROFESSION

Two main routes:

(1) Conventional

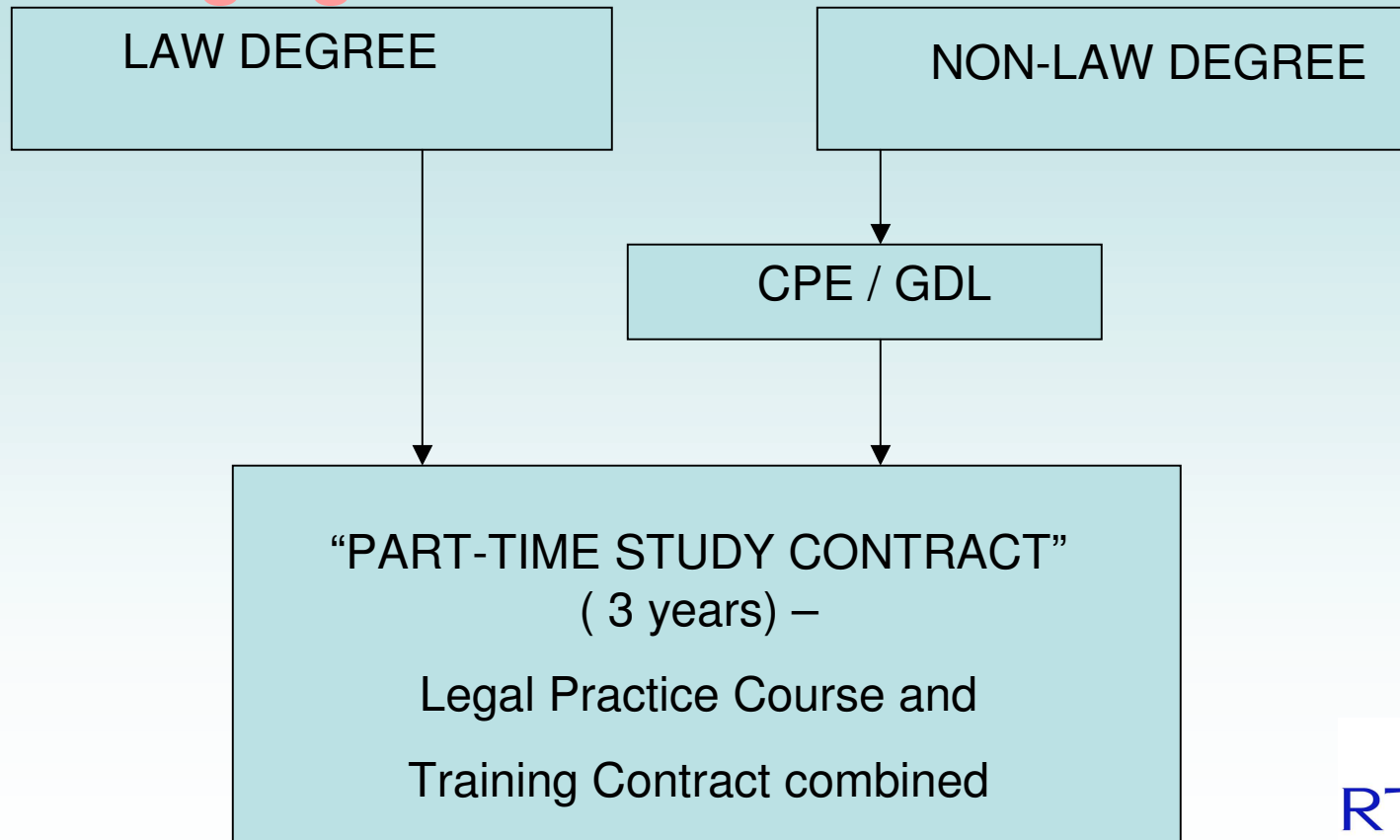


QUALIFICATION!

ROUTES INTO PROFESSION

Two main routes (Cont/d):

(2) Emerging



ROUTES INTO PROFESSION

So... Which Option? (Advantages & Disadvantages of Each Route)

Conventional – 1 year LPC

Adv

- Focus on Study
- Acquire Sound Knowledge of various subjects
- May have a more informed choice of areas of law
- Have a social life!!!
- Go into industry and focus on this

Disadv

- Lack of practical experience
- Course is very intense
- Expensive if not funded/part funded by firm

ROUTES INTO PROFESSION

So... Which Option? (Advantages & Disadvantages of Each Route)

Emerging – 2 year LPC

Adv

- Invaluable practical experience to assist studies
- Course not as intense as full-time
- Lecturers more sympathetic due to work commitments (apparently!!)
- Can get straight into the industry
- Good combination where studying and working in the same practice area (e.g of Media Client)
- Adopt good time management skills
- Can obtain vital assistance from colleagues

Disadv

- **NO SOCIAL LIFE!!!!**
- Have to study after work!

DAY IN THE LIFE...!

NON LAW SCHOOL DAY

- 9am – 9:15am – Get to office and acclimatize!
- 9:15am – 9:30am – Coffee & check mail
- 9:30 – 10:00am – Admin* - includes attendance notes on files from previous day/ timesheets etc. Discuss with supervisor
- 10 – 1pm – Fee-earning work
- 1 – 2pm – Lunch
- 2 – 2:30pm – Internal meetings if required
- 2:30 – 3:30pm – Marketing*
- 3:30 – 6:30pm (or 7pm or 8pm!) - Fee earning work

Day Ends

DAY IN THE LIFE...!

LAW SCHOOL DAY

- 9am – Get to office
- 9:00 – 9:10am – Coffee & briefly check mail
- 9:10 – 9:30am – clarify any instructions
- 9:30 – 12:30pm – Fee-earning work
- 12:30 – 1pm – Lunch (rushed!!)
- 1 – 1:30pm – Admin / Return calls / respond to e-mails & enquiries
- 1:30 – 4:30pm – Fee-earning
- 4:30 – 4:45pm - Shutdown and rush to Law School!
- [5:20 – 9:00pm – Law School]
- 10pm – day ends by passing out at home (or on the way)!

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Think about your passion(s)
- Consider the type of firm you would like to work in
 - Size
 - Practice Areas
 - Firm culture
- **Consider your USP**
- When applying, be honest BUT creative (!)
- Research the firms you apply to (ESPECIALLY when called for interviews)
- Speak to people in firms / areas of law you are interested in
- Keep up to date with changes and current issues in practice area(s) of prospective employers.



AT THE INTERVIEW

- Dress Code (Needn't say anymore!)
- BE YOURSELF (as far as possible!)
- Make sure you know your CV well BEFORE you attend!
- Be observant & listen very carefully
- Think before you answer questions
- Be as honest as you can (but always try and turn weaknesses to strengths)
- Think commercially – *remember: law firms ARE businesses!!*
- Ask intelligent questions, BUT
- DON'T 'Over-do' it!

CONCLUSION

Focus, Determination, Hard Work and a bit of Luck are the key ingredients for successful entry into the Profession.

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*Thank You and **GOOD LUCK!***