

The Good Resources Guide

AGCAS Legal Profession Task Group April 2015

THE GOOD RESOURCES GUIDE

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DIRECTORIES

• Chambers and Partners – Guide to the Legal Profession: Detailed directory with solicitors and barristers listings, plus in-depth information on solicitors firms including specialist areas. Free searchable directory on website.

Guides cover the UK, America, Latin America, Europe, Asia Pacific, Global (Canada, Caribbean, Middle East and Africa).

www.chambersandpartners.com/uk

• **HG.org Legal Resources**: A world-wide directory of lawyers and law firms which is searchable by geography or practice area. Includes a student centre which is US focused, but includes a useful section on writing personal statements for US law schools.

www.hg.org

• **The Bar Directory**: Comprehensive directory of barristers, in-house lawyers and top employers.

www.legalhub.co.uk

• The Law Society's Find a Solicitor: Search by location or practice area.

http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

• **The Legal 500**: Comprehensive worldwide coverage on legal service providers in over 100 countries.

www.legal500.com

• Vault Law 100: Opinions and observations on Vault's top 100 law firms in the USA.

www.vault.com

BOOKS

- A Guide to International Law Careers, Anneke Smit & Christopher Waters, 2010
- Bewigged and Bewildered?: A Guide to Becoming a Barrister in England and Wales, Adam Kramer, 2011
- Careers in International Law, Salli Anne Swartz, 2013
- Careers in International Law: A Guide to Career Paths in International Law (A resource of the American Society of International Law), 2013-14, D. Wes Rist, 2013
- Employability Skills for Law Students, Emily Finch and Stefan Fafinski, 2014
- Is Law for You?: Deciding If You Want to Study Law, Christopher Stoakes, 2013
- The Devil's Advocate, Iain Morely, 2009
- The Path to Pupillage: A Guide for the Aspiring Barrister, Georgina Wolfe and Alexander Robson, 2013

- Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future, Richard Susskind, 2013
- Ultimate Guide to Training Contract Success, Craig Robinson, 2013
- Working in Law 2014, Charlie Phillips, 2013

The following would be helpful for students considering commercial law:

- Commercial Awareness 2015/16, Christopher Stoakes, 2014
- Know the City 2015/16, Christopher Stoakes, 2015

TAKE AWAY CAREER DIRECTORIES

- Best in Law, Law Careers.Net: <u>www.lawcareers.net</u>
- Chambers Student Guide (The Legal Profession in England & Wales):
 <u>www.chambersstudent.co.uk</u> general guide to legal careers, solicitors and barristers
 listings, review of the top 100 firms of solicitors and information on their specialist
 areas. Includes trainees' own views of their firm. Excellent section on the different
 areas of the Bar.
- Prospects Law: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/lawmagazine</u>
- Pupillages Handbook, TARGETjobs Law: <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/law-barristers</u>
- **TARGETjobs Law**: <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/law</u> information on legal careers and solicitors and barristers listings. Search training contracts and pupillages.
- Targetjobs: Vacation Schemes & Mini Pupillages: <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/law-solicitors</u> information on how to secure a vacation placement and/or mini pupillage.
- The Lex 100: <u>www.lex100.com</u> the top 100 law firms. Firm profiles, salaries and application advice.
- The Training Contract & Pupillage Handbook: <u>www.lawcareers.net</u> is the sister site to this publication which is published in association with the Law Society. It contains a directory of training contracts, firm profiles, areas of law, barristers and careers advice. No online version available at present so ask for a copy from your careers service or law faculty <u>http://tcph.co.uk</u>.

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES

- **Counsel Magazine**: <u>www.counselmagazine.co.uk</u> monthly journal of the Bar of England and Wales covering the key issues facing the Bar and the legal system. Includes news and professional updates.
- In Brief: <u>www.inbrief.co.uk</u> an online legal resource providing information on the laws of England and Wales. Contains articles on a wide variety of legal issues.
- Insite Law Magazine: <u>https://insitelawmagazine.wordpress.com</u> news, blogs, lectures and podcasts on a wide range of legal issues.

- Lawyer2B: <u>http://l2b.thelawyer.com</u> student website linked to The Lawyer. News, advice and resources.
- Legal Action Group: <u>www.lag.org.uk</u> a national, independent charity that promotes equal access to justice for all members of society who are socially, economically or otherwise disadvantaged. Publishes a monthly magazine.
- Legal Business: <u>www.legalbusiness.co.uk</u> legal news, blogs, commentary and analysis. Also has links to The Legal 500 and The Lex 100.
- Legal Cheek: <u>www.legalcheek.com</u> news, views and jobs section. Also includes Top 60 Firms 'Most' List and Top 30 Chambers 'Most' List.
- Legal Futures: <u>http://www.legalfutures.co.uk</u> daily news coverage, expert analysis and market intelligence on legal issues including ABS and regulatory changes.
- Legal Week: <u>www.legalweek.com</u> legal news, analysis opinions and research. Focus on business lawyers at leading firms, including in-house departments.
- **RollOnFriday**: <u>www.rollonfriday.com</u> news, views and gossip on the legal profession. Also includes jobs and training contracts.
- Solicitors Journal: <u>www.solicitorsjournal.com</u> weekly journal providing news and comments on the law and legal practice for solicitors and other legal services professionals.
- **The Barrister**: <u>www.barristermagazine.com</u> independent magazine for barristers practising in the UK. Includes comments and opinions and an A-Z of barristers' chambers.
- The Law Society Gazette: <u>www.lawgazette.co.uk</u> The Law Society's magazine. Includes news and analysis as well as jobs and a Legal Services Directory.
- **The Lawyer**: <u>www.thelawyer.com</u> legal news, analysis and briefings from around the world. Also has a jobs section.

INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

- **CareerPlayer**: <u>www.careerplayer.com/graduate-jobs/law-and-related/law-and-related/law-and-related-overview/</u> a number of videos featuring a range of law professionals, including barristers and solicitors.
- **i could**: <u>http://icould.com/focus-on/law-order/</u> a series of law and order online videos found under the 'Focus on Law & Order' section.
- Law Careers.net: <u>www.lawcareers.net/Information/Videos</u> online video interviews with recruiters, students, trainees, partners and publishers covering topics such as networking, psychometric testing and interviews.
- The University of Sheffield Careers Service: <u>http://sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/law</u> - the 'Law - Introduction' section has a number of short video clips covering topics including 'How to become a Solicitor', 'Training Contracts', 'Vacation Schemes' and 'Commercial Awareness'.

KEY WEBSITES

Solicitors

- Find a Solicitor: <u>http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk</u> produced by The Law Society, this allows you to choose a location and obtain a complete list of firms in that area.
- Junior Lawyers Division of The Law Society: <u>http://communities.lawsociety.org.uk/junior-lawyers/</u> - includes information for students and training/recruitment information. Details of local groups.
- Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG): <u>http://lapg.co.uk</u> news, information, directory of legal aid firms and occasional vacancy advertising.
- Search for law firms: <u>www.chambersstudent.co.uk</u> all sets offering pupillage in the UK
- Solicitor AGCAS Occupational Profile: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/solicitor.htm</u>
- Solicitors Pro Bono Group: <u>www.lawworks.org.uk</u> information for students interested in carrying out pro bono work.
- Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA): <u>www.sra.org.uk</u> the SRA is the organisation that regulates the solicitor's profession.
- The Law Society: <u>www.lawsociety.org.uk</u> search for law firms by postcode and area of law.
- **Trainee Solicitor Surgery**: <u>www.traineesolicitorsurgery.co.uk</u> free e-book 'How to Succeed at Interview and Assessment Centres'.

Barristers

- Bar Standards Board: <u>www.barstandardsboard.org.uk</u> regulation issues.
- Barrister AGCAS Occupational Profile: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/barrister.htm</u>
- Barrister's clerk AGCAS Occupational Profile: www.prospects.ac.uk/barristers_clerk.htm
- **Pupillage Gateway**: <u>www.pupillagegateway.com</u> lists pupillage vacancies in England and Wales.
- Search for Mini Pupillages: <u>www.chambersstudent.co.uk</u> all sets offering pupillage in the UK.
- The Bar Council: Becoming a Barrister: www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister Download 'Your Career as a Barrister' brochure and view barrister profiles and a film on the profession.
- The Bar Council: Publications: <u>www.barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/publications</u> download the 'Bar Barometer', an annual report on statistical trends at the Bar.
- The Inns of Court:
 - Gray's Inn: <u>www.graysinn.org.uk</u>
 - o Inner Temple: <u>www.innertemple.org.uk</u>
 - Lincoln's Inn: <u>www.lincolnsinn.org.uk</u>
 - o Middle Temple: <u>www.middletemple.org.uk</u>

Course applications for the BPTC, LPC and GDL

- Bar Student Application Service (online application system for the Bar Professional Training Course): <u>www.barsas.com</u> includes an applicant's guide and deadlines for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- Central Applications Board (for full-time LPC and GDL courses):
 <u>www.lawcabs.ac.uk</u> those interested in part-time courses should contact the
 individual course providers directly.

Job vacancy sites

Pupillage

- **Pupillage Gateway**: <u>www.pupillagegateway.com</u> all authorised pupillage providers must advertise on the Pupillage Gateway online system. Many will then ask you to apply using this system, whereas others will invite you to apply via other methods.
- Some chambers' pupillages are also listed on <u>www.lawcareers.net</u> and the other student publications referred to in the 'Training Contract' section.

Training Contracts

The majority of student publications (e.g. Chambers Student Guide, The Lex 100, Prospects, All About Law) have websites listing training contracts and the same firms appear again and again. The websites included below have more comprehensive lists and/or provide useful starting points.

- Find a Solicitor: <u>http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk</u> The Law Society's 'Find a Solicitor' database has a full list of firms within England and Wales. Useful for speculative applications.
- Law Careers.Net: <u>www.lawcareers.net</u> the up-to-date version of the *Training Contract and Pupillage Handbook* with useful drop-down sections for searching. Includes some immediate vacancies.
- Target Law: <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/law</u>

Paralegals, qualified solicitors and some Training Contracts

Journal/newspaper-related

- Lawyer 2B: <u>http://l2b.thelawyer.com</u> trainee and graduate law jobs, some immediate vacancies.
- **LegalWeek**: <u>www.legalweekjobs.com</u> features jobs of varying seniority, both in private practice and in-house, mainly in commercial and international jurisdictions.
- The Law Society Gazette: <u>www.lawgazette.co.uk</u> features legal jobs ranging from family and crime to commercial across the UK.
- **The Lawyer**: <u>www.thelawyer.com</u> solicitor and barrister roles in the UK and crown dependencies, both commercial and otherwise.

Portals and recruitment agencies

- Badenoch & Clark: <u>http://www.badenochandclark.com/Legal-Jobs.aspx</u> national legal recruitment agents.
- Career Legal: <u>www.careerlegal.co.uk</u> national legal recruitment agents.
- **Chambers & Partners**: <u>www.chambersrecruitment.com</u> recruiting lawyers, company secretaries, governance and shares professionals.
- **Garfield Robbins International**: <u>www.garfieldrobbins.com</u> international legal recruitment agents.
- HAYS legal jobs: <u>www.hays.co.uk/job/legal-jobs/</u> national legal recruitment agents.
- **HG.org**: <u>www.hg.org/law-jobs.asp</u> information and jobs in the US and Spain.
- Law Crossing: <u>www.lawcrossing.com</u> legal job aggregation site allowing you to search legal jobs in the UK, the US and other countries.
- Legal Job Spot: <u>www.onrec.com/directory/job-boards/legal-job-spot</u> a job listing website specialising in recruitment for the legal sector. Vacancies within law firms and other legal organisations for lawyers and solicitors, legal executives, paralegals, legal secretaries, and legal support staff.
- Legal Jobs Board: <u>www.legaljobsboard.co.uk</u> a range of jobs, e.g. paralegal, legal cashier, solicitor and PA, in the UK and overseas.
- Lipson Lloyd-Jones: <u>www.ll-j.com</u> national legal recruitment agents.
- **MichaelPage**: <u>www.michaelpage.co.uk</u> national legal recruitment agents.
- **Pro-Legal**: <u>www.pro-legal.co.uk</u> agency for legal, tax and finance careers.
- **Simply Law Jobs**: <u>www.simplylawjobs.com</u> another site with all levels of law jobs throughout the UK, both from agencies and directly from employers.
- **Taylor Root**: <u>www.taylorroot.com</u> typical of the recruitment agencies you may find on Totally Legal. Taylor Root covers the UK, Asia and other international locations and its site carries salary surveys and advice, including City Guides.
- Ten-Percent Legal Recruitment: <u>www.ten-percent.co.uk</u> national recruitment agency to both firms and in-house legal departments; permanent and locum for solicitors, barristers and other legal staff.
- **Totally Legal**: <u>www.totallylegal.com</u> jobs portal for many agencies and some individual employers. Includes solicitors, lawyers, barristers, paralegals, legal PAs and legal executives from Magic and Silver Circle to boutique firms and in-house.

Subscription services

• **Going Global**: <u>www.goinglobal.com</u> - your university may subscribe to Going Global, a subscription job and careers advice site for jobs all over the world.

Freelance opportunities

- Lawyers on Demand: <u>www.lod.co.uk</u> opportunities for experienced lawyers to work more flexibly through a legal resourcing company.
- LPC Law: <u>www.lpc-law.co.uk</u> seeks freelance advocates, usually with a minimum of LPC or BPTC, to work for its clients, often in the county courts.

Other legal professionals

- Association of Costs Lawyers: <u>www.associationofcostslawyers.co.uk</u>
- Chartered Institute of Legal Executives: <u>www.cilex.org.uk</u> (see the Chartered legal executive (England and Wales) AGCAS Occupational Profile: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/chartered_legal_executive.htm</u>)
- Institute of Barristers' Clerks: <u>www.ibc.org.uk</u>
- Institute of Paralegals: <u>www.theiop.org</u>
- National Association of Licensed Paralegals: <u>www.nationalparalegals.co.uk</u>
- The Society of Licensed Conveyancers: <u>www.conveyancers.org.uk</u> (see the Licensed conveyancer - AGCAS Occupational Profile: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/licensed_conveyancer.htm</u>)

Public and voluntary bodies

- Disclosure and Barring Service: <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service</u>
- Government Legal Service: <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/civil-service-</u> government-legal-service
- HM Courts and Tribunals Service: <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-</u> <u>courts-and-tribunals-service</u>
- Law Commission: <u>http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk</u>
- Lawyers in Local Government: <u>www.lawyersinlocalgovernment.org.uk/local_groups</u>
- Ministry of Justice: <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice</u>
- The Crown Prosecution Service: <u>www.cps.gov.uk</u>
- The Legal Aid Agency: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/legal-aid-agency

Diversity issues

- AGCAS: Equality and Diversity (Diversity Matters):
 <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/equality-and-diversity</u> advice on disclosure, identifying diversity positive employers and understanding your rights.
- Black Lawyers Directory: <u>www.onlinebld.com</u> includes careers information and networking events for students. Details of the 'Legal Launch Pad (LLP) programme', targeted at first and second year law students from ethnic minorities, are located under the 'Legal Gateway'.
- Black Solicitors Network: <u>www.blacksolicitorsnetwork.co.uk</u>
- **Deaf Lawyers UK**: <u>www.deaflawyers.org.uk</u> set up by a group of deaf solicitors, barristers and law students to share information and raise awareness.
- **EmployAbility**: <u>www.employ-ability.org.uk</u> a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to assisting people with all disabilities into employment. Advertises internships, graduate roles and scholarships.

- Law Society Diversity Access Scheme: <u>www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-</u> <u>careers/diversity-access-scheme</u> - for those who face exceptional social, educational, financial or personal obstacles to qualification. Opens from February to April each year.
- Lesbian and Gay Lawyers Association (LAGLA): <u>www.lagla.org.uk</u>
- National Bureau for Students with Disabilities: <u>www.skill.org.uk</u>
- **Open to Law**: <u>www.open-to-you.com</u> designed for students interested in the challenges of a legal career, but who due to a disability or long-term health condition may require support.
- Pegasus Access & Support Scheme (PASS): <u>www.pegasus.me</u> a coordinated work experience programme that aims to support those from diverse backgrounds to consider a career at the Bar.
- Society of Asian Lawyers (SAL): <u>www.societyofasianlawyers.co.uk</u>
- Society of Black Lawyers: <u>www.blacklawyer.org</u>
- Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) London: <u>www.seo-london.com</u> not-for-profit organisation that helps undergraduate students from under-represented ethnic minority backgrounds to gain summer internships at some of the most prestigious corporate law firms.
- **TARGETjobs Events**: <u>http://targetjobsevents.co.uk</u> includes the 'City law for ethnic minorities' event.
- The Society of Visually Impaired Lawyers (SoVIL): <u>www.sovil.org.uk</u>

General law careers information sites

- AGCAS: What can I do with my degree? Law: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/options_law.htm</u>
- All About Law: <u>www.allaboutlaw.co.uk</u> inside information, tips and advice on all aspects of a career in law.
- Law Careers.Net (LC.N): <u>www.lawcareers.net</u> search for training contracts, work placements, pupillages and mini pupillages. Sign up for the LC.N Weekly email newsletter. The 'MySelf' exercise at MyLC.N allows individuals to assess their suitability for the legal professions and start to build evidence of their suitability in preparation for applications and interviews.
- **Prospects Law**: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk./law_sector.htm</u> information on legal job roles, training, typical employers and opportunities abroad.
- **TARGETjobs**: <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/employer-hubs</u> the inside buzz from graduates on selected firms and chambers.
- **TARGETjobs Law**: <u>https://targetjobs.co.uk/law</u> careers information, solicitor and barrister listings, courses, application and interview advice.

Events

- Events and training: https://events.lawsociety.org.uk
- First year insight and open days: <u>www.lawcareers.net/Information/News/First-</u> <u>come-first-served-Get-ahead-of-the-game-with-first-year-open-days-and-wor</u>
- Law fairs: <u>www.prospects.ac.uk/events.htm</u> careers events: fairs, open days and workshops.
- Open evenings/days and employer presentations: <u>www.lawcareers.net/Information/Diary</u>

Jurisdictions in Scotland, Ireland and internationally

Scotland

- Scottish Law Firm Directory: <u>www.scottishlaw.org.uk/lawfirms</u>
- Scottish Paralegal Association: <u>www.scottish-paralegal.org.uk</u>
- Solicitor, Scotland AGCAS Occupational Profile: www.prospects.ac.uk/solicitor_scotland_job_description.htm
- The Law Society of Scotland: <u>www.lawscot.org.uk</u>

Ireland

- Law Society of Ireland: <u>www.lawsociety.ie</u>
- Solicitors and legal sites in Ireland: <u>www.venables.co.uk/ireland.htm</u>
- Solicitors and legal sites in Northern Ireland: <u>www.venables.co.uk/firmnort.htm</u>
- The Bar of Northern Ireland: <u>www.barofni.com</u>
- The Law Society of Northern Ireland: <u>www.lawsoc-ni.org</u>

International

- American Bar Association: <u>www.abanet.org</u>
- Amicus: Assisting Lawyers for Justice on Death Row: <u>www.amicus-alj.org</u>
- Council on International Educational Exchange: <u>www.ciee.org</u>
- European Court of Human Rights: <u>www.echr.coe.int</u>
- European Union: <u>www.europa.eu/index_en.htm</u>
- Federation of Law Societies of Canada: www.flsc.ca
- Fulbright Commission: www.fulbright.co.uk
- **HG.org**: <u>www.hg.org</u> worldwide legal directories.
- Law Society of South Africa: <u>www.lssa.org.za</u>
- Mountbatten Institute: <u>www.mountbatten.org</u>
- The Law Society of New South Wales (Australia): <u>www.lawsociety.com.au</u>
- The Law Society of South Australia: <u>www.lawsocietysa.asn.au</u>
- The Law Society of Western Australia: <u>www.lawsocietywa.asn.au</u>