

# Meet the team

Melissa Nelson

outset.



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## What do you do at Outset and how do you support our clients?

I provide advice and support on all aspects of contentious and non-contentious employment law.

I work collaboratively with clients to find and implement pragmatic solutions to the issues they are facing. I will seek to understand a client's key objectives and their appetite for risk, providing advice focused on those objectives and based on my commercial experience and in-depth understanding of the law.

## Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

After a history degree in London, law school in Nottingham, and a couple of years out either side of law school working and travelling, I started a training contract with a firm in Kent in 2007. I qualified into the employment team in 2009 and have specialised in employment law since. I decided it was time for a change after 9 years and was lucky enough to be offered a role with Outset starting in March 2017.



## What has been your biggest challenge in your role?

Probably going paperless on joining Outset. I'm a big fan of paper.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working with others, whether that is colleagues, clients or both, to solve problems.

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## What do you think sets Outset apart?

Like so many firms Outset talks of delivering innovative and cost effective solutions but what sets Outset apart is it actually walks the talk.

I can't move on to the next question without mentioning the people here too. All experts in their chosen areas, all engaged and driven to deliver a great service to clients and all just so nice!

## What do you wish someone had told you when you started out? Or what piece of advice were you given early on that has stuck with you?

As a trainee solicitor I had a tendency to provide lengthy advice notes giving chapter and verse on the relevant legislation. One of my training supervisors pointed out that a client wants to know what the time is, not how the clock works. It really stuck with me and helped me focus on providing practical options and solutions.

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## What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Given my previous answer you won't be surprised to learn I love to read. I also enjoy walking my border terrier, playing with my 2 girls, cycling and running.

## When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I contemplated making something up here to sound interesting and mysterious but the actual answer is a librarian.

## Who inspires you most and why?

I find anyone who faces obstacles or rejection and is not put off their chosen path inspiring.



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## What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

Treat people with respect and act reasonably. People won't always like decisions that are made but if you have acted reasonably it will always be harder to challenge you.

## And finally... What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

That with 2 sofas, 8 cushions and a blanket the den possibilities are endless.



**Melissa Nelson**  
Employment Team

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Melissa's contact details

