

Meet the Outset team

Samantha Williams

Employment Paralegal



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Describe your role and how you support our clients (in no more than 100 words)

I work on the employment-related aspects of mergers and acquisitions (it's more interesting than it sounds). My job involves a lot of document reviewing and piecing bits of the puzzle together until the whole picture is visible. Being the middle-man for our clients when it comes to negotiating employment contracts means that I have gained a really in-depth understanding of their company culture. It's honestly a pleasure to know that we work on behalf of some truly wonderful clients.

2

Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

I got accepted into the University of Greenwich when I was 18, however, I was unable to complete my first year due to personal problems. You know what they say, "the best laid plans of mice and men..." Once I was back on my feet, I decided to get straight into the world of work instead of continuing my education. I was offered an 8 week voluntary work experience programme at my local MP's office, and after just 2 weeks I was offered a permanent position as a Case Manager (eventually working my way up to Senior Caseworker – oo la la). Working for an MP was a really remarkable opportunity. I got to meet and help hundreds of interesting constituents and business owners in my area, give tours of parliament and sit-in on debates. I also became a member of the Litter Angels charity, delivering assembly presentations to 30 local primary schools and even illustrating a children's poetry book! The work was incredibly rewarding, but in 2017, I was looking for a new challenge and along came an exciting opportunity at Outset. I was actually taken on as an HR Advisor and somehow ended up in an Employment Paralegal role. It's been an unconventional journey to say the least.

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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?

I have always suffered a bit from ‘imposter syndrome’, so I wish someone had told me that you don’t have to be loud to prove yourself if your work can speak for itself.

I was also once told that you’ll always remember the person in the room that smiled at you. I love this. Who wouldn’t want to be remembered as the smiley person?

4

What has been your biggest challenge in your role

The ‘imposter syndrome’. I love a new challenge, but if you’d told 18 year old me, who was packing up to head to university, that I wouldn’t finish my degree and I’d be working in a law firm at 24, I would probably have laughed in your face. Nothing has gone quite as planned, but it’s been quite the adventure!

5

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Am I allowed to say the fruit bowl, or is that rude to my amazing Outset colleagues? I guess it just shows how good the fruit bowl is!

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What do you think sets Outset apart?

I feel like it’s such a cliché to say “the people are great”, but we really, truly do have the best people. I miss them all dearly and I’m sure they miss me as much as they miss my weekly sweetie tin rounds...

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

I was absolutely desperate to be a West End actress. Eponine might be a pipe-dream, but maybe Madame Thenardier is an attainable goal in the future...

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What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

I love playing Dungeons & Dragons with my friends. I also make a podcast called 'Now There's an Idea!' with my boyfriend, which is a lot of fun and a little bit ridiculous.

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Who inspires you most and why?

Lin-Manuel Miranda. The man is a bona fide genius and genuinely good person. I have so much respect for him, the things he creates and his work ethic. He writes like he's running out of time...

10

What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

I am a lover of processes. Tracking projects or deadlines in an excel document is an outdated method of working and there are now so many products and apps out there to be utilised! I love using Microsoft Teams and To Do, as they link together and make it so easy to track the jobs on your to do lists.

And lastly...

What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

I've learnt how to make a pretty epic sourdough. I guess I've also learnt how much commuting and sitting in traffic was taking a toll on my mental health. I know we're all eager for things to return to normal, but I'll definitely miss my commute being 30 seconds long...



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