

FELT Officer

(Applications from Ellie Stansfield, Harvey Blake and Jessica Wager)

Ellie Stansfield – Paralegal at Blacks Solicitors.

I'm Ellie Stansfield, a family paralegal and future trainee at Blacks Solicitors. I graduated on the MLaw at Northumbria University in 2017 and moved to Leeds shortly after. Due to Leeds's vast legal sector I am aware there is a large pool of junior lawyers who may wish to engage with various events and meet other people to widen their knowledge and network. I am applying for the position of FELT rep on Leeds JLD committee as I believe I would be able to bring a unique perspective and representation of its members.

I am currently employed at a firm with 7 trainees and as the sole paralegal in the family department I understand the importance of arranging networking and training events for the inclusion of the whole department. I am also aware of different challenges that being a junior lawyer at a smaller or medium firm can hold. As a future trainee myself, I am committed to focusing on arranging events for these firms encouraging the JLD network to come together.

I believe that the relationships formed whilst we are juniors will help us build our networks to allow referrals, on both a client and personal level in the future. I would love to be part of the committee as it's a great way to meet young lawyers and build on those relationships.

I enjoy being part of a team and I am actively engaged in the CSR committee and netball team at Blacks. This in turn has allowed me to organise team charity events and our netball social. These skills will allow me to take an active part in the organisation of various events for JLD members, including suggesting and arranging a variation of events for all attendees.

In my spare time I enjoy doing yoga and Sweatworking at TRIB3. I am a sociable person and known for getting involved wherever I can. I will certainly do my best to represent smaller and medium firms with unique events and a familiar friendly face throughout the year. I'm also a keen Leeds Rhinos supporter (in case that wins your vote...!)

Harvey Blake- Trainee Solicitor at Chadwick Lawrence

My name's Harvey Blake. I'm a Trainee Solicitor at Chadwick Lawrence Solicitors approaching my third seat in Crime and Regulatory having spent time in the Employment Team. "Chadlaw" is a full-service law firm with 7 offices including one in Leeds City Centre. I've been going to Leeds JLD events for 2 years.

I make this application to be the FELT committee member with the promise that I can bring a fresh lease of life to the small/medium sized firms based in and around Leeds.

My first and foremost objective during my term would be to promote an inclusive approach to networking and event organising by reaching out to trainees/paralegals/NQ's throughout the Leeds region by establishing a 'FELT Network'. This would significantly advance the involvement of young professionals from smaller firms in the Leeds legal community. Whilst predominantly targeted at smaller firms, this would be a fully inclusive network open to all firms. This would be achieved by creating platforms on social media, but also by approaching smaller firms' trainees personally through existing events.

I have the necessary experience and ambition to act, having had substantial involvement in promoting my own firm's young professionals' progression by advocating charitable partnership events with schools, Barristers' Chambers and internal training programmes, including being involved with the firm's Dementia Focus Group.

Following the creation of the FELT Network, I would plan events every 3 months which engages more smaller firms which strongly encourages meeting new faces (rather than firms' sticking as a "pack"). I have experience in helping to organise and run events, mostly charitable events such as 'brewery family open days' (yes, you read correctly, at an actual brewery!) and local gala's with the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice, based near Huddersfield.

I hope this provides a flavour of my desire to re-ignite the smaller firms of Leeds' business and social connections.

Jessica Wager- Trainee Solicitor LCF Law

I would also be interested in the FELT rep position as I believe I could contribute insight to the role whilst undertaking my training contract at a firm alongside only 7 other trainees.

I am a first year Trainee Solicitor at LCF Law and I am currently undertaking a seat within in our Disputes team. I moved from Sheffield to Leeds two years ago after gaining an affinity with the North whilst at university and naturally, I haven't looked back! In my spare time I particularly enjoy finding new villages and walks in the area and baking for friends and family.

I would like to join the Committee as since becoming a Trainee, I have become aware of how valuable the JLD is in helping young lawyers engage not only with fellow lawyers in the industry but with a wide range of professionals to help us gain connections and insight that we wouldn't otherwise have access to. My experience of JLD events has always been positive and it would be great to be part of an organisation which can help make a difference for junior lawyers in a friendly and sociable atmosphere.