



WOMBLE
BOND
DICKINSON

APPRENTICE Q&A

INTRODUCING EBY ABRAHA

Eby Abraha is a Solicitor Apprentice within our Operational Property team in our Southampton office. Eby joined WBD in September 2024.

Why did you choose WBD?

I chose WBD primarily because of how much the firm cares for its employees. It was clear to me upon initial research just how much of a people firm WBD is, with its REACH networks and commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion!

WBD is always so proactive in ensuring that all its employees thrive and progress, which made me confident that this was the best place for me to pursue a Solicitor Apprenticeship at!

The work culture at WBD was also so appealing to me, with its commitment to Wellbeing and Volunteering Days and acknowledgement of the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. This showed to me that this firm does not just care about its employees' professional wellbeing, but personal too!

Tell us about your apprenticeship - what did/does this involve?

My apprenticeship is structured over a 6-year programme involving studying for both my Law degree and SQE exams and giving me the opportunity to train in different sectors of law too! For the first four years of my apprenticeship, I will be training in Core Real Estate alongside studying for my degree with the University of Law.

The final two years will be my Training Contract, which involves four 6-month seat rotations as I prepare and sit my SQE exams! I could not be more pleased to have WBD supporting me as I embark on this journey, that will equip me with all the skills I need to become day 1 Solicitor-ready!

What inspired you to apply for a Solicitor Apprenticeship?

I was inspired to apply for a Solicitor Apprenticeship because I believe that it is by far the best route to qualification in comparison to the traditional route! The opportunity to network with like-minded professionals and build invaluable skills from legal work experience puts me in such a better place than I would have been if I had chosen to go to university full-time, which I truly believe will help me in the long-term. Moreover, the opportunity to earn whilst I learn, in having my studies fully funded whilst also receiving a competitive salary is amazing!

How has your first couple of months at the firm been?

I have loved my first couple of months at WBD so far! My team and supervisors have been so helpful in supporting me navigate the shift from A-levels to where I am now; it is really great to know that I have so many people around me

that are here to support me throughout this apprenticeship! I have also been able to join WBD's Reach Network as a Panel Member, which I find valuable in being able to greater voice my interests and ideas in helping our firm become even more inclusive and a better place to work in for all!

What kind of tasks do you complete on a typical day?

So far, I have already been able to help with exciting transactions by undertaking a range of tasks in my Operational Property team, from drafting leases, swearing in statutory declarations, and completing lease summary reports and post-completion forms! Receiving feedback after completing tasks has proved so helpful to my professional growth, I have learnt so much already!

What advice would you give to any other aspiring Solicitor Apprentices?

When speaking in an interview or talking about your skills in an application form, do not limit yourself to solely talking about legal work experience. As I had no legal work experience prior to the recruitment process at WBD, the transferable skills from my experiences working in hospitality and commitments I had in sixth form were highly valuable to my application as I was able to relate it to the desirable attributes of a Solicitor Apprentice!



MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WORK-LIFE BALANCE



BUILD INVALUABLE SKILLS



ON THE JOB LEARNING BY DOING



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