

Dear Diary,

What does 2024 hold in store? I envision successful opportunities for learning, personal and professional growth, and the abundance of God's blessings and favour. Through our belief systems, it will be a year where grit, determination and a positive mindset will ensure that we overcome all hurdles.

Week 17

I spent Monday to Wednesday studying for the BSB Professional Ethics assessment. On Thursday my knowledge and application of ethics were tested. Twelve in depth questions were asked in three hours. Time management dictated that each question needed to be answered in 15 minutes or less. It was an intense assessment of speed, accuracy, knowledge, and application. Candidates were permitted to refer to the BSB Handbook during the assessment. Therefore, one needed to be very familiar with the Handbook's content and its online navigation. We also had to be acquainted with numerous other resources which we did not have access to during the assessment. Hopefully our methods of study, hard work and understanding reap success.

On Friday I shadowed second six pupil Imogen Nichol in a small claims trial in Barnsley. This claim arose due to a road traffic collision. Imogen represented the Claimant. There were a few lessons that were deduced:

- While conducting a conference with the Claimant, it is helpful to show the Claimant the location of the collision on Google Maps. This provides the Claimant with an opportunity to explain their version of events while referring to an image of the location. It is also a helpful opportunity for the Claimant to explain why they disagree with the Defendant's version of events.
- If Counsel receives different instructions from the lay client in comparison to the professional client, Counsel must follow the lay client's instructions. In this case, the Defendant's insured (who was supposed to give evidence) was gravely ill and could not attend court. The instructing solicitor instructed Counsel to agree to an adjournment with the Defendant's representative. However, the Claimant instructed Counsel to proceed with the trial. Ultimately, Imogen followed her lay client's instructions and proceeded with the trial. Imogen provided excellent client care by updating the instructing solicitor about the Claimant's position.
- When determining whether an adjournment should be granted, the Judge decided that the trial should proceed. The Judge explained that it was evident that the Defendant's insured would never be in a position to stand trial due to the severity of the illness.

Week 18- Holiday

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are now about to prepare for our descent into Barbados." Blue skies, blue oceans, white sandy beaches, sunshine, delicious food, and friendly people. Welcome to paradise- home sweet home! My well-deserved holiday began in one of the most beautiful countries on earth. I spent the week catching up with family and friends and soaking in the beauty of the island. I enjoyed being immersed in the love and warmth of my parents and friends.

On Friday my mum and I checked into the recently renovated and reopened majestic all-inclusive resort- Wyndham Grand Barbados Sam Lord's Castle Resort. The weekend was spent in luxury, lounging by the pool, taking a long stroll on the beach, dining, and fine dining. I can still taste the mouth-watering Bajan lemonade and the bartender's "*mudslide*."

What a wonderful holiday filled with relaxation and rejuvenation! I am pleased to be chilling in the West Indies! Hopefully I can trap some of this sunshine and warmth in my suitcase and bring it back to the UK.

Yours truly,
Nia Marshall