

Exchange Report

LAWorld Paralegal Exchange Program

LONDON - MATHURA MANIYAM

17.02. – 13.03.2020



Name of the participant	Mathura Maniyam (Master of Law)
Working at which law firm	Bader Gnehm & Partner (“ BGP “) Kramgasse 25 CH – 3000 Bern 8 Switzerland Tel.: +41 31 329 55 66
Period of the exchange	February 17 - March 13, 2020
Law firm on which the exchange program of LAWORLD took place	Simons Muirhead & Burton LLP 87 – 91 Newman Street London W1T3EY United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)20 3206 2700
The main supervisors	Mr. Razi Mireskandari Mr. Raoul Lumb
Size of the law firm / number of employees	Approximately 75 lawyers
Legal practice of the law firm	<p>Simons Muirhead & Burton LLP (SMB) is a multi-disciplined law firm based in Soho, central London. The law firm works across many different practice areas such as corporate and commercial, litigation and dispute resolution, employment, crime and regulatory, property, family law, film and television, music and intellectual property.</p> <p>SMB’s history goes way back over 45 years and the firm has grown ever since and provides its high level</p>

	<p>services to individuals, growing businesses and large organisations from a range of industries and business sectors.</p>
<p>Legal practice of the paralegal during the exchange program</p>	<p>During my placement with SMB I was given an insight in different practice areas.</p> <p>I checked non-disclosure agreements and contracts, prepared a social media guideline for influencer, gathered information about crowdfunding for legal actions or clarified legal issues in connection with COVID-19.</p> <p>I got to observe the solicitors at courts attendances and client meetings. For example, I could accompany them to an arbitration hearing, to a mediation and a trial at the crime court. Thereby I gained an insight into the different proceedings. I also had the chance to learn more about the amazing Death Penalty Project, which is based at the SMB office and provides free legal representation and assistance to individuals facing the death penalty and other vulnerable prisoners in more than 30 countries around the world.</p> <p>Reading pleadings and judgements and running researches enabled me to learn more about the respective areas.</p>
<p>Experience of the exchange paralegal</p>	<p>For the purposes of the above-mentioned activities I learned a lot about the legal system in the UK and especially about the course of the proceedings under the common law system, which was for me probably the most noticeable difference to the civil law system in Switzerland. During this month I also could improve my</p>

	<p>English language skills and my knowledge of legal terms.</p> <p>It was valuable to gain an insight in a foreign legal culture and in the everyday work in a reputable law firm in London. I also experienced a new and different approach of handling clients and opposing counsels.</p> <p>The SMB lawyers are highly dedicated to their work and to the success of their clients. It was really encouraging to work with so passionate lawyers and observe them practising law was absolutely inspiring and motivating. Despite their own massive workload the lawyers made time for me to explain and to discuss their cases with me. I really appreciated this exchange and their effort to give me an understanding of their work.</p>
Improvement possibilities of the exchange program	My stay in London at SMB was great and I am thankful for everyone who made this experience possible for me.
More remarks in regard to the law firm, organisation, accommodation, leisure time, social life etc.	<p>I highly valued the broad integration into the team and the whole firm. They organized a Welcome-Lunch for me in the first week, which made it easier to get to know the people. Furthermore I could participate in all the social events. Everyone in the firm was really nice and lovely. I was completely integrated into the team right from the beginning. SMB has a remarkable strong team spirit and you can tell that people love working for the firm.</p> <p>As I have family living in London, I could stay with my cousin. It was really nice to combine my experience</p>

	<p>with SMB with the possibility to spend time with my cousins and explore London. I visited several musicals and concerts, went sightseeing and tested some of the amazing restaurants in London.</p> <p>This exchange was a unique opportunity and a very enriching experience; not only from a professional point of view but also because of the wonderful people I met and worked with.</p>
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Bern, April 22, 2020

M. Maniyam

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