



**Sarah Moley**  
Team Lead -  
Contentious Support Group



## Work Inspiration

### What does your job entail?

In my role, I assist the Associate Director in managing large scale projects which includes liaising with instructing offices globally on a daily basis and co-ordinating with our legal professionals here in Belfast. We assist various practice groups from our litigation team in Chicago to our disputes resolution team in Singapore (and many others in between). At times, I have been involved in leading both a team in Belfast and a team in Tampa - our work is truly global. More recently I have been working alongside our tax department in London which has involved travelling between both offices to assist the team with various aspects of the case. Additionally, I have the opportunity to work in a pastoral capacity, managing Legal Professionals through probationary periods, conducting goal-setting meetings and end of year reviews and I also am involved in interviewing candidates for the Legal Professional role.

### How did you get into this line of work?

I started my legal career at Baker McKenzie in August 2015 as a Legal Professional in our contentious support department. I worked across a wide range of projects assisting on competition and regulatory investigations, tax investigations and disputes. In January of 2018, I was extremely fortunate to be seconded to our Zurich office for initially three months (which turned into six months) to assist in a large scale tax investigation. Here I worked alongside associates from our offices globally - from Washington, Madrid, Warsaw, Milan, New York (to name but a few). On returning to the Belfast office I applied for the role of Team Lead and was successful.

### Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I graduated from Queen's University Belfast in July 2015 with a LLB Law - on graduating I wasn't entirely sure what route I wanted to go down. I knew Baker McKenzie was a top global law firm and they had recently opened up their Belfast centre. I interviewed in July 2015 and started in August 2015 as a Legal Professional. I was seconded to our Zurich office for initially three months (extended to six months) and on returning to the Belfast office, progressed to the Team Lead role. I have recently completed my ILM certification with the help of our internal Baker Next programme and look forward to embracing the many opportunities which Baker McKenzie has.

### What is the best advice you have ever received?

Best career advice - "Own your own career" - this is something I first heard from Kate Stonestreet at one of our Belfast Town Halls and a piece of advice that really struck me. It's not just about getting into a job and working a nine to five. It's important to guide yourself, seek opportunities and discuss progression with your manager. Find things which motivate you and you will excel.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love going to the gym - gym classes are a big de-stresser for me, I love going out for a nice meal at the weekends to unwind and I love a good book.

### Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I've always been quite sporty playing Gaelic (with the boys and girls teams) from a young age and being part of our school dance team, however I never was a strong long distance runner. Very proud to say that during lockdown I've been testing myself and can now run a 10K!

### Who has inspired you most in your life?

Both of my parents - they have always supported me in any decisions I have made and have always encouraged me to go for it! What's the worst that can happen!

### What qualities are required for your job - personal and professional?

Commitment is key to my role both personally and professionally. The nature of our role means we can receive a project last minute with a tight deadline. To get this over the line, I have to be committed to put in the long hours (sometimes cancelling personal plans last minute) and to keep my work product to a high standard.

Communication is a vital quality needed in my role. On a daily basis I could be communicating with partners, global clients, senior associates, our colleagues here in Belfast and it's important to communicate effectively with every party involved to ensure a clear message is delivered.

As a manager, empathy is important, especially in the current climate as we are managing through the change of working from home. I understand this current pandemic effects each person in a completely different way and I schedule regular check in calls, both in one-to-one format and group format to help motivate my team.

Leadership is an important quality needed in my role - on a team project I must motivate my team and keep them engaged to achieve the end goal.