

POSITION: **PAID SUMMER PLACEMENT SCHEME**
AVAILABLE: July 2024

1. Summary

- 1.1. We are pleased to offer paid summer placements to two undergraduate or CILEx students¹ interested in pursuing a career as a solicitor in a civil liberties focused legal aid practice.
- 1.2. Each placement will be for four weeks from the 1 July to 26 July 2024.
- 1.3. The placement will be paid in accordance with the London Living Wage, which is currently £13.15 per hour. Assistance may also be available in relation to accommodation and travel costs for successful applicants who live outside the Greater London area.

2. Aims of the scheme

- 2.1. We receive numerous requests from students seeking work experience with the firm and while we would very much like to offer opportunities to everyone who has expressed an interest in our work, we simply do not have the resources to allow us to do so. The aim of this scheme is to take positive action by offering work experience to students who are not in a position to undertake unpaid placements or who are from under-represented groups within Bhatt Murphy².
- 2.2. Gaining relevant experience in a law firm can make a crucial difference to securing the legal training required to qualify as a solicitor. We hope this scheme will help to improve diversity within the profession.

3. Application Process

- 3.1. Applications should be made by emailing the relevant application form (available from our website at www.bhattmurphy.co.uk), a copy of your CV and an equal opportunities monitoring form (available from our website) to jobs@bhattmurphy.co.uk
- 3.2. Applications will not be considered unless you have completed the application form and provided a copy of your CV. Completion of the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is optional, but we do encourage applicants to complete this form as it helps us to assess the effectiveness of our action plan to improve diversity in the firm. We regret that due to the volume of applications we expect to receive, we may not be able to contact you if your application has been unsuccessful.
- 3.3. Candidates will be assessed on merit on the basis of the application form and CV submitted.

¹ The scheme is only open to those who are currently studying on an **undergraduate degree** course in any discipline, but we will consider applications from graduate students qualifying through the CILEx route.

² Underrepresented groups within our solicitor and partner cohort include those from a BAME background, those with disabilities and those who were the first in their family to attend university.

- 3.4. The closing date for applications is **5.00 pm on Monday 6 May 2024.**
- 3.5. If it is necessary to interview a short list of applicants in order to select the successful candidates, Zoom interviews are likely to take place in May 2024.

4. Essential characteristics for applicants

- 4.1. Able to demonstrate eligibility for a placement in accordance with the aims of the scheme
- 4.2. Desire to learn about legal aid work
- 4.3. Interest in civil liberties and social justice
- 4.4. Empathy with Bhatt Murphy's ethos
- 4.5. Ability to work as part of a team

5. Description of Role

- 5.1. The placement is designed to provide candidates with experience of working in a busy legal aid firm.
- 5.2. It will provide an opportunity to observe and assist solicitors and other members of the firm in their conduct of public and/or private law litigation arising from a policing, prison, inquest and/or immigration detention context.
- 5.3. Candidates will gain an insight into the roles of trainee solicitors and paralegals, including attending court and assisting with new enquiries.
- 5.4. There may be opportunities to attend client meetings and conferences with barristers.

6. Bhatt Murphy

- 6.1. We offer specialist help to members of the public who seek accountability from the state and its officers. Our focus is primarily upon state agencies such as the police, the prison service, immigration authorities and the prosecuting agencies (and where appropriate their private contractors), and on their exercise of coercive powers including detention, the use of force, surveillance and data collection. We also act in other matters of public interest.
- 6.2. We are motivated by the needs of our clients and use the law as a tool to assist in the realisation of their objectives. We aim to deliver a high quality legal service irrespective of our client's ability to pay.
- 6.3. We rely upon a collaborative style to ensure that our clients benefit from the commitment of their own lawyer as well as the creativity and innovation of the entire team.
- 6.4. We are Lexcel accredited and Band 1 ranked in the Chambers Directory in all of our practice areas.