

Summer Clerk Testimonials

by Leah Whitfield

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Since the time of my first interview and right through my clerkship experience, Harmers Workplace Lawyers has been an exemplary firm that has been personally and professionally invaluable. I knew from the beginning of the clerkship application process that Harmers was the firm that I would love to work for. This was for a number of reasons, including that Harmers is one of Australia's leading workplace law firms which deals with a diverse client base; is a model of ethical and enjoyable working conditions and is an experienced environment to grow and develop as a lawyer.

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The clerkship at Harmers began with a very comprehensive induction, which included: sessions on practice areas within the firm; software programs; Harmers' policies and legal research databases. The time and effort the firm has invested in the summer clerks has been impressive.

Harmers is unique in its clerkship structure as each lawyer provides you with tasks rather than one supervisor alone. This was valuable as it increased the variety of work and helped to develop a wider network of professional relationships and learn from a number of brilliant mentors.

I have had the opportunity to gain exposure from a wide range of intellectually stimulating, interesting and challenging work. I attended court on numerous occasions; a training session for a significant client of Harmers and conducted legal research for real matters.

Workplace law is an extremely diverse, important and interesting area of law. It draws on many areas of law including: criminal law, tort law and contract law, just to name a few. Workplace law is crucial and incredibly relevant since almost all people will spend the majority of their lives as an employee or employer. To know that a firm such as Harmers exists to represent both the employee and employer in an effort to achieve fairness, in the workplace for individuals and businesses, is not merely comforting but inspiring.

I not only value, but also respect, the ethics that Harmers aims to achieve for its clients and puts into practice within its own workplace. For example, I witnessed other staff experience and experienced for myself real work-life balance at Harmers. During my clerkship they understood and accommodated my long distance travel and wedding preparations.

The firm and clerkship experience offered a range of social activities such as weekly morning teas, Friday night drinks, the Greek Christmas dinner, the circus themed dress up trivia night and many more.

Ultimately, it has been the people at Harmers who helped make the difference as they are a caring and passionate team. I would strongly recommend a clerkship at Harmers to anyone seeking a challenge in a supportive environment, where quality work is exemplified by Harmers quality people.

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Participating in a clerkship at Harmers was a summer well spent!