



Francesca Ruddy

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“Growing up in Glasgow, with no family background in law, it never occurred to me that I might become a barrister, let alone a commercial barrister at a Magic Circle set in London. What little I knew about the legal profession was gleaned from TV dramas.

I stayed in Glasgow for university. So, even by the time I graduated, I’d had very little contact with the English Bar. From what I had heard, it was a financially precarious career and a boys’ club, so it was not very appealing.

It was only when I qualified as a solicitor at a leading disputes firm that I began to have regular contact with barristers. I soon realised that the profession was not at all like I had come to believe. After a few years, I decided to take the plunge and transfer to the Bar.

I quickly found my natural home at Fountain Court. Members are drawn from a wide array of backgrounds, yet there is a collegiality – and a dry sense of humour – that binds us all together. No one cares where you grew up, where you studied or what your parents did for work. What matters is that you are bright, diligent and someone who works well with others.

Ultimately, I am glad I took the ‘risk’ of transferring to the Bar and that I chose to do so at Fountain Court. I have been rewarded with high quality, well-paid work, a huge amount of independence and flexibility, and the support, guidance and friendship of a wonderful set of colleagues.”