The beginning

Karl came to the University of Hertfordshire in 1993 to study an LLB in the hope of pursuing his ambition to be a solicitor. However, after graduating Karl discovered that getting a trainee role was not as straightforward as he had first thought. ‘Competition to get a job as a trainee solicitor was, and still is, fierce and I did not manage to secure a position immediately following my legal practice course. Instead I gained experience in paralegal work which included just over a year in the corporate department at Freshfields in London. However, I was determined not to give up in getting a training contract.’

One hundred applications later, he was offered a training contract at Porter Dodson in Taunton. Karl then spent two years working as a solicitor with another law firm in Somerset.

Current roles

Karl now works for a national law firm, Clarke Willmott LLP, as a Senior Associate in Commercial Property. His day job involves acting for national house building companies such as David Wilson Homes and Barratt in buying and selling residential development land. He enjoys this area of his work, particularly as it leads to the creation of new communities.

Karl has also had extensive involvement with a business organisation called the Bristol Junior Chamber (BJC).

Advice for success

Karl continues to find his degree useful today. ‘I continuously use the property law knowledge as well as the analytical skills gained from my degree when reviewing contracts. My main advice to anyone who’s interested in law would be not to give up and pursue your dreams. Law is a very competitive career but can also be very rewarding in being able to achieve the wants and needs of clients’.

Karl’s future plans are to become a partner in his firm whilst continuing to make a positive difference to the lives of others through education and CSR work in the local community. More importantly he would like to be known as ‘a game-changer’, someone who helps bring positive change to his local environment and community.

My main advice to anyone who’s interested in law would be not to give up and pursue your dreams. Law is a very competitive career but can also be very rewarding in being able to achieve the wants and needs of clients.'