Ben Davies TEP
LLB, 2003 and LPC, 2005
Partner and Head of Wills, Trusts and Probate,
Prince Evans Solicitors LLP

Becoming Partner
Despite having qualified only ten years ago, Ben Davies is already a Partner and the Head of Prince Evans Solicitors’ only Wills, Trusts and Probate team. This role means that Ben’s days are varied and cover a wide range of areas.

‘My day-to-day activities include advising on all manner of wills, trusts, probate, Court of Protection and tax-related matters, be that in client meetings, formal corporate presentations, private individual correspondence or seminars presented to the general public. I also get involved in drafting tailored legal documentation, reviewing portfolio indexes and maintain Trust and Estate accounts.’

Ben’s success has not stopped there, and in 2014 he qualified as a member of STEP, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. This is a very prestigious qualification to hold in this area of law, with only 19,551 members throughout the world and allows him to use the suffix TEP, or Trust and Estate Practitioner.

Sector experience
One of the secrets to Ben’s success is the amount of practical office-based experience that he got during his LPC. ‘After my LLB, and whilst studying for my LPC, I took various administrative positions including working as a legal secretary, conveyancing and re-mortgage case handler, and a paralegal at several firms across Hertfordshire.’

This experience helped Ben realise that his interests and skill-set were best suited to working in a firm’s private-client department. As a result, the training contract at Wright & Co Solicitors in Harpenden that Ben secured after completing his LPC enabled him to continue his development in a Wills, Trusts and Probate team. After he was fully qualified, Ben was then able to specialise as a private-client solicitor at a firm in London.

Ben also sees the benefit in this experience, as it helped him focus on his area of specialty. ‘Having just come out of a recent recession, employers are looking more and more at students with a focused, clear ambition, particularly when considering applications for employment within their firm.’

Advice and the future
Self-knowledge is something that Ben sees as key to success. ‘Try to understand what your strongest skills are, and then play to those strengths – it’s no good wanting to become a litigator if you dislike public speaking. Once you know where your strongest skills lie, seek to apply them to the areas of law of particular interest to you. Understanding your choices sooner rather than later can prevent problems arising when you move into a training contract and then again when moving into full time, fully-qualified employment.’

In the future, Ben hopes to have the chance to be considered as an equity partner of the firm.