

I'm In! *This is my story*



“*Working in Construction means I operate in what is seen as a very male dominated industry - this needs to change and I'm excited to be a part of making that happen'*

Rebecca Prigg
Senior Associate

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself

A: I grew up in rural West Cornwall, about as far from the corporate legal world as you can get within the British Isles. Consequently, my childhood was mostly spent either at the beach or at my local riding stables, but from a very young age I always wanted to be a lawyer.

I studied law at Oxford University, staying in Oxford to complete my LPC, and then moved to London to start my training contract. Construction was the second seat of my training contract, and within a few weeks I knew it was where I wanted to qualify as I really enjoyed the mix of black letter law and commerciality. I also found it really exciting to pass projects I was working on when walking to the office in the morning, and to this day still enjoy boring friends and family by pointing out 'my' buildings whenever walking around London. In addition the characters you encounter in the construction world also mean things are rarely dull! I have worked for various clients including major developers such as GPE, Frogmore, Greenland and Hermes, as well as household names such as Google, UBS and Bloomberg.

Outside of the office, I enjoy watching rugby and football (the Cornish Pirates and Manchester United clearly being the obvious choices for anyone growing up in West Cornwall...), the theatre and travel. Friends and colleagues will attest to my love of holiday planning, particularly when it comes to Disney World and colour-coding spreadsheets.

Q: What does diversity and inclusion mean to you?

A: It is about feeling comfortable being yourself, and working in an organisation which is meritocratic. It is not just about working with people from different backgrounds, but goes further than that to ensure equal treatment and reward.

Q: Do you feel like you have role models like you who you can look up to?

A: For a long time I had the perception that it was incredibly difficult for a female to be made partner in a department like construction. However, I now work in a team that has a majority of female partners, and have become involved with the Women's Network at CMS, so see first-hand how much diversity is valued in the firm. Consequently I now have a number of female role models to look up to, which gives me more confidence in my own career aspirations.

Q: If not a lawyer, what would you be?

A: Walt Disney Holiday Planner.

Q: What challenges have you faced on your career journey?

A: Within a year of qualifying in the Construction Team at Linklaters, most of the team were made redundant due to the financial crisis and the impact it had on the UK construction market. It was an uncertain and intimidating period, but it allowed me to take on a lot of work which I would not have otherwise been given as a very junior lawyer. Whilst it was great to be running my own clients and matters at such a junior level, ultimately I worried about the lack of supervision and senior figures to learn from, which led to my move to Nabarro.

Q: Do you think CMS is a diverse and inclusive firm, and how can it improve?

A: I think that we are doing well but there is always room for improvement. Until every member of the firm is committed to and living by the firm's values and culture there will still be work to be done, so ensuring policies and initiatives are utilised and adhered to across the board will be vital moving forwards.

