**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**MAGISTRATES COURT**

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

At the end of this work experience placement you should be able to:

1. Reflect on what an advocate – defence, prosecutor, HMCTS legal adviser – must do to prepare for a court hearing.
2. State the role of all participants in a court hearing and their input (for example, the probation officer.)
3. Understand case management in the Magistrate court – what is it, how does it work and why is it necessary?
4. The nature of bail – What is bail? When a defendant appears before the court, what does the court decide in regard to where the defendant stays between hearings: at home, elsewhere or in prison? What does the court consider in making that decision and how do court ‘actors’ influence that decision, if at all?
5. State the importance of special measures in a trial – what are special measures and how do they work?
6. Articulate how defendants are sentenced – what are the factors considered?
7. Reflect on the digitalisation of certain hearings. Are there any benefits? How can the process be improved (if at all?)
8. Describe the act of giving legal advice. Reflect on your current skills and other skills you have acquired from this experience.
9. Identify the difference between Magistrates and District Judges and why we need both.
10. Make and destroy an(y) argument. This will be achieved through a 2-hour session on Argumentation delivered via Teams.
11. Improve on your legal research skills. There will be a brief research exercise.
12. Understand the difference between a solicitor and a barrister and begin to decide which, if any, you want to become.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

* You will be sent some pre-reading and scenario-based questions. Tackling these will assist you to answer interview questions on critical reasoning, decision making and time management. You don’t need to submit this to your host but completing the tasks will assist you in following some of the hearings.
* Lunch will be taken at same time as the court which is generally between 1pm and 2pm
* A link to each court will be sent to you during the preceding week.

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| **Day of the Week** | **Court Type** |
| **Monday**  Peterborough Magistrates Court 1 | 9am to 9:30am: Welcome and briefing session with mentor/host  Remainder of the day: Remand court with a District Judge or Deputy District Judge (look out for outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7) |
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| **Tuesday**  Huntingdon Combines Courts 2 | Domestic Abuse GAP and NGAP court  (GAP = Guilty Anticipated Plea; NGAP = Not Guilty Anticipated plea)  (Look out for outcomes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) |
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| **Wednesday**  AM only: Huntingdon Combined Courts 2 | AM: 10am to 12pm: Non-police court (compare this court to other courts you have observed. Any difference?)  PM: 12pm to 5pm: Plenary session  • There will be a Q&A session and lunch break  • Demystifying argumentation: how to make and destroy arguments  • Solicitor and Barrister – what’s the difference? Which is best? Are there any alternatives? See CILEX  • Research exercise. This will be brief. Please have access to an online law library |
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| **Thursday**  Peterborough Magistrates Court 1 | Trial court  (reflect on outcomes 1,5, 7, 8, 9) |
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| **Friday**  Cambridge Magistrates Court 2 (via Teams this time) | 10am to 1pm: Skills Conversation with the Legal Managers: (outcomes 8 & 12)  2pm to 4pm: Single Justice Process court (reflect on outcomes 6, 7 and 8)  4pm to 5pm: Final review / Q&A |

**SCHEDULE**