

Advocate's Day in the Life

Quest Legal Advocates attend hearings in every County Court in England. Attending thousands of hearings each year.

This wouldn't be possible without our outstanding Advocates, one of whom has shared their day in the life for those interested.



Daniel Law
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Hello, I'm Dan Law. I come from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and I have been an advocate with Quest for close to 4 years now having joined straight after passing my Bar exams at Leeds University.

It is a little bit artificial to record an advocate's day as in some respects every day is a different experience. However, let me try to bring you through a 'typical' day in my role.

The days are varied. Some days, the court is a stone's throw away from my base in Yorkshire and other days, well, an almighty journey is in store. Some mornings might even begin at 5am or 6am, depending on where the case is heard, Carlisle County Court usually entails an early bird start. To those who can sustain a meditative and intentional morning routine, I salute you. That could never be me. A lot of my mornings are devoted to the rush to get to court, which is *a* kind of meditation I suppose.



Court sessions usually start at 10 am, and the aim is to get there for 9 am so that I can meet the clients and the opponent to go through the fine details of the case with them. There is security to get through before that which is an article in itself and then ushers to check in with once through the process. On a good day I will be called in at the listed time, the alternative can mean a lengthy wait (an article on the nuances on court listing pending!) When the case is called we enter the courtroom and the dance begins. This is the dance of advocating the case, rebutting the arguments, and assisting the Judge where needed. The aftermath of that consists of client aftercare, writing reports, for those that have instructed me, and preparing the next day's case.

That sequence, like most of the elements in this line of work, is subject to change. There may be no travel at all as the court may have mercy and allow a remote hearing once in a blue moon. Cases could be in the afternoon, or they could be vacated and relisted at a later date. The evidence might change at the last minute and the positions and procedures need to be amended. Or perhaps there is a full day of cases to get through instead with little time to spare.

As I say, the days are varied. But after a while, the security guards, the ushers, and even your opponents, become familiar faces. They may even become friends for whom you like to see and talk to when in court. Even the judges might become familiar and friendly figures to whom hearing matters before them is a pleasant experience.

You meet many different kinds of people throughout and you are always, always learning. If not of cases, laws, and court procedures/rules, then about people, the world, human nature, and yourself. With that you grow in knowledge and know-how constantly and become able to deal with all kinds of situations, legal or otherwise. It is nothing short of a worthwhile endeavor.

And that is the real day in the life of an advocate.