

Careers

Hine Solicitors are a major high street law practice providing a full range of legal services for all. The Firm has an impressive national reputation for providing first class legal services.

The Firm ensures that all clients receive a personal service tailored to their individual needs. We pride ourselves on the professionalism and efficiency of our Solicitors to deliver the right blend of targeted expertise, knowledge and skills. The clients can expect an exceptional service and easy to understand legal advice which clearly sets out their options. We also take pride in ensuring that we maintain both a friendly culture and vibrant work ethic.

Expansion

Hine Solicitors is an established firm that has continued to expand and develop as a result of close client relationships and an outstanding level of service from the people we employ, including our specially selected graduates

The Firm was founded in 2000 and has grown rapidly since, maintaining a progressive and dynamic approach to expansion.

Location

Hine Solicitors has 9 offices located across the South East of England and up in to the Midlands. Currently the offices are based in the following locations: Beaconsfield, Oxford Summertown, West Drayton, Swindon, Bracknell, Gerrards Cross, Cheltenham, Princes Risborough and Worcester.

Areas of Practice

Hine Solicitors specialises in Crime and Prison Law and is one of the largest Criminal Practices in the country

Hand in hand with our large Criminal Practice the firm has an established Private Client Practice providing high quality advice and service in the areas of Conveyancing, Commercial Property, Family Law and Wills and Probate. These areas continue to grow progressively.

Hine Solicitors also provides specialist advice on Employment law, Military law and Civil litigation matters

Hine Solicitors is accredited by Lexcel and so offers a higher level of service to clients. Our solicitors have also received accreditation from Resolution (First for Family Law) and The Law Society for both Criminal Litigation and Family Law which recognises the practitioners' excellence in those fields. Additionally The Law Society has also awarded the firm with an accreditation for Conveyancing Quality.

Training

Starting out

Hine Solicitors employs law graduates from University and those who have completed the Legal Practice Course. You will initially be employed as a paralegal and will be supervised and continually monitored. Exceptional candidates will then be offered a Training Contract.

Hine Solicitors is authorised to take on 12 trainees in total, but with a steady increase in offices and employees, the possibility to extend this figure is currently being considered.

During the course of your training contract, there is an emphasis on Criminal Law. You will have the opportunity to undertake seats in the Crown Court department where you will be working alongside the in-house advocates, a number of whom were at the Independent Bar. You will also undertake seats in the Magistrates Court, Prison law, and Private Client Crime departments. With expanding Private Client departments such as Family, Probate and Conveyancing across the firm, there are also the opportunities for seats in these areas too.

There is the expectation that you will become an accredited Police Station representative and as a result, you will earn overtime for Police Station call-outs on top of your basic salary. Once qualified, Hine Solicitors also offers appropriate candidates the opportunity to take Higher Rights in Advocacy and become a Solicitor Advocate, joining our in-house team.

Upon qualifying as a Criminal Solicitor it will be expected that you become a Duty Solicitor.

What to expect...

Hine Solicitors offers a friendly and supportive environment.

Social opportunities include an annual weekend abroad with the firm, a Christmas party, and various other social events held both planned and sporadically throughout the year.

This is a young, dynamic and vibrant firm, with opportunities to develop in whichever area of law you would like to practice. There is a high level of retention amongst the trainees, with several of the partners having undertaken their training with Hine Solicitors.

You are thrown in at the deep end! You are given cases from the beginning and under supervision; you are given a great deal of opportunity to deal with complex matters and situations.

What we are looking for in trainees...

- We are looking for candidates with a strong academic background with a 2:1 degree or above and a Commendation or above on the Legal Practice Course
- You are expected to have awareness of current issues facing the legal world.
- You are expected to contribute to the firms' growth, in whichever area you are practicing. How this is achieved will vary depending on which area of law you are working in within the firm.
- There is a strong emphasis on client care, managing clients' expectations and frequent communication with clients

Education

Law degree

This covers the seven core areas of law which will be taught on the common law degree offered by most Universities:

- **Contract Law** – what makes the basis of a contract and how contract disputes arise
- **Tort Law** – the basis of liability and how liabilities, and breach of, are manifested
- **Criminal Law** – what are the principle elements which make up a criminal act
- **Equity and the Law of Trusts** – what is a trust, how is it created and how do they work
- **European Union Law** – the many articles governing regulation of European Union Law
- **Property Law** - the basic principles of Land Law
- **Public Law** – the constitution of England & Wales and how it came into being

Additionally you have the opportunity to build on these foundation subjects with various option subjects, such as Family Law and Company Law to name but two, whilst also being introduced to legal research training.

A Law degree is incredibly useful whether or not you to decide to continue with a career in law. It shows a high intellectual capacity, an ability to understand difficult concepts and an ability to articulate arguments in good English. It can also demonstrate commitment and a hardworking personality.

GDL

If you have undertaken an undergraduate degree in a different subject, the Graduate Diploma in Law is a conversion course, enabling you to convert into a career in law. This condenses the seven core areas of law above, which are taught in one year of study rather than 3.

LPC

The Legal Practice Course covers three core areas:

- **Business Law and Practice**
- **Property Law and Practice**
- **Litigation**

It also covers three elective modules in the final term and several key skill areas, such as advocacy, interviewing, practical legal writing, practical legal research and professional conduct

The course runs over either one year (full time) or two years (part time).

Legal Roles



Solicitor

Skills needed (as an overview and not exhaustive!) = Intellectual ability, versatility, commitment to the job, numeracy skills, problem solving skills, interpersonal skills, and communication skills. An ability to manage and prioritise workloads.

Role = confidential advisor in a range of areas. Direct contact with clients, so need the ability to explain legal matters to range of people. Tailor your approach to the person you are advising.

Routes to becoming a solicitor = **Law degree, LPC, Training contract**
Non-law degree, GDL, LPC, Training contract
CILEx routes

For more information go to: www.lawsociety.org.uk or www.sra.org.uk

Barrister

Skills needed = high level of intellectual ability, highly articulate, both in writing and spoken English, communication under pressure, determination and emotionally robust.

Role = advising clients on the law, representing clients in legal proceedings.

Routes to becoming a barrister = **Law degree, BPTC, Pupillage**
Non-law degree, GDL, BPTC, Pupillage

For more information go to: www.become-a-barrister.com/faq

Legal Executive

Skills needed = similar to those needed as a solicitor. Your role as a legal executive will vary greatly depending on which area of law you go into and which firm you work for.

Paralegal

Skills needed = similar to those needed as a solicitor. Your role as a paralegal will vary greatly, depending on which area of law you go into and which firm you work for.

Legal Secretary

Skills needed = accuracy, numeracy skills, high levels of technological ability, touch typing at fast speeds.

Role = supporting solicitors, typing dictations, dealing with clients and other solicitors on the phone.

How to apply...

Please email your CV and covering letter to Susan Richardson at: recruitment@hinesolicitors.com

Please also visit our website for further details about how to apply. The firm responds to all applications.

Please note that applications for training contracts need to be made at least 1 year in advance of anticipated start date.