



Treasury  
Solicitor's  
Department

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# Our people

## Staff profiles 2012/13

We are proud of the work that we do in TSol.

We respect each other and value our professionalism.

In this document, some of our qualified lawyers talk about what attracted them to TSol and why they like working here.

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## David Stranger-Jones, Legal Officer, Litigation A4



### What does the Litigation A4 legal team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

Team A4 is composed of three teams: (1) The General Private Law team; (2) the Attorney-General's team; and (3) the Special Advocates Support Office (SASO).

The general private law team represent a large number of Government Departments and other public bodies in private law litigation (as opposed to public law judicial reviews, freedom of information requests etc). The work therefore covers personal injury, but also wrongful detention, misfeasance in public office, civil penalties, breach of contract etc – in effect, any claim against a government department through which the claimant is seeking damages.

The Attorney General's team represent the Attorney General's Office in matters of charity and family law, exercising the jurisdiction of the Queen's Proctor and acting for the Attorney in matters concerning the Royal Sign Manual and applications to have litigants declared vexatious.

SASO instruct special advocates and support them in their work and facilitate the administration of the special advocate system.

The opportunities for lawyers in the private law litigation division are varied. As opposed to my previous experience in a Magic Circle law firm, we rarely work in teams and so I have full responsibility for the strategic direction of the case as well as guiding the client through the proceedings. I should say that colleagues are friendly and always willing to help, and so you are not left on your own. There are clear opportunities to focus on certain areas, clients or types of claim and managers are happy to assist in that regard within the ambit of fair work allocation within the team. TSol currently work on a four-year rotation system and so after spending four years in this team, I will have the opportunity to move to another team, another division or, indeed, move to an advisory role at a Government Department.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

I chose to work at TSol for three reasons: first, I wished to practice more government-related law and TSol seemed the obvious place to start. Second, TSol represents a huge number of Government Departments and public bodies, and so the exposure to all aspects of government and the litigation (and advisory) problems they face is second to none. And third, I understood from friends already working at TSol that "work-life balance" was not only preached but also practised. I can confirm this is the case since joining!

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

My role is split between the Attorney General's team and the General Private Law team. My recent casework has therefore varied between wrongful detention, pursuit of WWII military artefacts, advising the Home Office in assisting with the search for abducted children, personal injury arising out of an employment claim, personal injury arising from an attack on British embassy abroad, pursuit/tracing of monies paid, breach of contract, asbestos/mesothelioma-related claims and advising the Attorney General on whether he should intervene in a charities dispute.

My clients include the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department of Education, the House of Lords and the Home Office.

### **What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?**

I think my highlight has simply been the extraordinary variety of work. While I enjoyed my previous role as a qualified litigator at a Magic Circle law firm, in essence the work there boiled down to breach of contract or advising on enforcing contractual terms. However, in the private law litigation team at TSol, you could be called on to litigate on behalf of almost any Government Department in almost any private law action being brought against it.

### **How do you see your career in TSol developing?**

I am very happy to have joined TSol and have no regrets in leaving the City. In terms of my future, it may be that I choose to stay in Team A4, move to another public law litigation team, or an inquests team, or even seek to join an advisory team within TSols or one of the Government Departments. There are such a wide variety of opportunities it is difficult to say now where I will want to go after my four years in my current team!

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## **Emily Gilmour, Grade 7 Lawyer, Litigation A1**



### **What does the Litigation A1 legal team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?**

There are opportunities to get involved with a variety of cases and to travel up and down the country attending Inquests.

A1 conducts defence litigation team on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, mainly for HM Prison Service, the Probation Service and the Court Service. We cover a wide range of areas including personal injury, clinical negligence, assault and battery, false imprisonment, human rights challenges, Equality Act claims and Inquests.

### **Why did you choose to work at TSol?**

I have always been interested in public law and the idea of working for the government really appealed to me. I wanted the opportunity to work on cases involving high profile legal issues in areas which are of importance UK wide, and required consideration to be taken of wider considerations, such as current policies, which make the work both demanding and interesting.

### **What type of work have you been involved in recently?**

It has been a busy couple of months for Inquests so I've been all over the country. Recently I have been involved in two interesting cases, both involving the Equality Act. The first is about whether there was a breach of the Equality Act when a female prisoner was re-categorised but there were no wheelchair accessible cells available in an open prison, and the second is going to look at the questions of whether vegetarianism is a protected characteristic for the purposes of the Act.

## What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

There have been too many interesting cases to pick out a particular one, but as for new experiences, climbing the Queen Elizabeth Tower on a tour organised by the Government Legal Service Social Network and standing next to Big Ben when it chimed 10am was pretty cool!

## How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I would be interested in working on an Inquiry, the Attorney General's Office or the National Security Team, but there's a wide variety of career options, and with the advent of Shared Legal Services, it really feels you could end up anywhere!

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## Andrew Poole, Grade 7 Lawyer, Litigation A4



### What does the Litigation A4 legal team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

A4 is known as the General Private Law and Attorney General and SASO team. The team undertakes 3 areas of government work:

- General Private Law. The team represents a large number of Government Departments and other public bodies in private law litigation. Most of the work is personal injury litigation but it also extends to wrongful detention, misfeasance in public office, civil penalties and other private law claims.
- Special Advocates Support Office (SASO). This is a 'mini-team' that deals with the instructing and supporting of special advocates who operate in closed material procedures. These cases usually involve issues of national security
- Attorney General. Members of the team act on behalf of the Crown in matters of charity and family law, exercising the jurisdiction of the Queen's Proctor and acting for the Attorney General in matters concerning the Royal Sign Manual and applications to have litigants declared vexatious.

There are many opportunities for lawyers within the team to develop a broad range of cases of varying complexity. You have the opportunity to attend hearings and draft pleadings on behalf of client's and we are also lucky to work alongside highly skilled counsel.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

Prior to joining Tsol I worked in private practice. However Tsol is known as having a quality reputation and I was drawn to government work in particular due to its work in matters that are often high profile, often involving questions of constitutional importance especially in the fields of national security and human rights.

## What type of work have you been involved in recently?

I consider myself extremely fortunate as I am able to work across the whole spectrum of cases offered within the team. I have worked in charity proceedings and attended mediation meetings to settle charitable disputes. I have acted on behalf of the Queen's Proctor and been successful against those who have obtained a divorce by means of fraud. I will soon be attending the Supreme Court having instructed an Advocate to the Court (or Amicus) on behalf of the Attorney General. I also have a range of private law cases ranging from personal injury, human rights claims and damages to the highways where we act as both Defendant's and Claimant's on behalf of the Highways Agency. I am also a part of SASO and work with special advocates in Closed Material Proceedings, often in significant cases involving matters of national security.

## What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

This is difficult to answer as I am lucky to have such a broad practice area and have many interesting cases including matters that have been heard in the Court of Appeal. If I were to push an answer I would say attending 10 Downing Street in a private law matter was a career high. I also enjoy travelling to Northern Ireland as part of SASO to have conferences with appellants who have required the appointment and use of a special advocate. Most people are unaware of the procedure and the use of special advocates so I consider this work to be of significant value.

## How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I honestly do not know at this stage how my career may develop and that is probably testimony to one of the great benefits of joining Tsol. When you join Tsol you are part of the GLS and therefore there are always new opportunities to develop your skills and your career. It is commonplace for lawyers to move to a different team after a number of years in one team and I will no doubt consider my options at the time. Another positive about Tsol is the choice to change and develop your role so that you are not pigeon-holed in one area of expertise alone. I hope to move into an advisory role in due course.

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## Gareth Jenkins, Grade 7 Lawyer, Litigation B1



### What does the Litigation B1 legal team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

Litigation Team B1 is part of the Immigration Team that primarily conducts litigation and dispute resolution in respect of judicial review claims against the Home Office and what used to be known UKBA.

Opportunities within the division are varied including the chance to conduct complicated litigation and dispute resolution, assist on associated policy issues and become a lead lawyer in particular countries that have immigration issues with individuals attempting to enter the UK such as Sri Lanka, Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

I chose to work at TSol to partake of the team spirit, be a public servant and undertake interesting, varied rewarding work.

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

Types of work I have been involved include complicated judicial review and advising on costs issues as lead cost lawyer.

### How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I would hope to achieve appropriate competencies to facilitate promotion to a Grade 6 Lawyer and possibly beyond.

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## Michael Ottolenghi, Grade 7 Lawyer, Litigation B1



### What does the Litigation B1 legal team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

It is a public law litigation team that deals with immigration and asylum cases. There are opportunities for lawyers to have a lot of responsibility and for them to manage their own cases in tribunal, high court and court of appeal proceedings. The lawyers in my team also work closely with a variety of Home Office clients.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

I chose TSol because I am interested in public law and public law litigation. TSol provides the best exposure to this as well as providing a lot of responsibility to individual lawyers.

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

Recently I have been involved in cases concerning the return of failed asylum seekers and foreign national offenders to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This involved hearings in the high court, liaising with Home Office clients, assisting in drafting legal submissions to the minister, and considering the wider strategic impact of the high court judgment.

### What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

Attending hearings at the Supreme Court.

### How do you see your career in TSol developing?

TSol provides the opportunity to move departments so I hope to be able to experience different areas of public law in the future, including advisory work.

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## Stefan Ossowski, Grade 7 Lawyer, Health and Safety Executive teams A & B (a TSol Advisory Division)



### What do the Health and Safety Executive Teams A & B do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

My team is one of two teams based at TSol that provide advice to the Health and Safety Executive. We advise on policy development, operational queries, and the negotiation and implementation of European Directives. We also draft secondary legislation as part of that. The subject matter is very diverse. Health and Safety law covers the areas one usually associates with health and safety: risk assessments in the office, construction sites, gas safety, asbestos – that sort of thing – but it also extends to many other industries and activities. So we advise on the regulation of explosives, biocides, chemicals, offshore oil and gas, offshore renewable energy, ionising radiation, mines, quarries, petrol, carriage of dangerous goods, diving, pipelines and a few other areas. We

frequently work with the Health and Safety Executive's prosecutions team who are based at Bootle.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

Among a number of reasons the main one was the opportunity to work in a wide range of areas including those readily available only to government lawyers: drafting regulations, working on Bills before Parliament, negotiating European legislation, attending supra-national courts. I was also interested in the role of the State, the rule of law, and the issues of national and sometimes international import that could be encountered in the work.

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

I've been advising HSE on the negotiation and implementation of Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations, introduced following the Gulf of Mexico accident in 2010. It's an ongoing project with transposition to occur in the summer of 2015 and is of particular interest to me as my degree was in geology. I've been working across government with colleagues advising the Department for Energy and Climate Change and the work is high-profile and obviously has a European dimension.

I've also been drafting regulations and advising on the consolidation of the legislation on petroleum-spirit in Great Britain, following an independent review of health and safety legislation. The project has produced a number of tough queries and called for research, advice and creative problem solving. It's typically in government work you often see or hear about the subject you're working on in everyday life. Often this is on the radio or TV news, but sometimes elsewhere – for me now pretty much every time I'm on a petrol station forecourt!

### What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

There is of course the work itself – attending the Court of Justice of the European Union was exciting, for example – but for me the stand out experience is the people and the culture. From my first day I was impressed with the support and training I received and the professionalism and enthusiasm in the Department. I like the collaborative culture.

### How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I'm looking to continue as I have been, working in different developmental and intellectually stimulating roles.

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## Chris Bradshaw, Grade 7 Lawyer, Ministry of Justice Offender Management team (a TSol Advisory Division)



### What does the MoJ Offender management team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

MoJ OM Team advises on legal questions arising from prisons and probation operational matters and sentencing and youth justice policy. This includes all primary legislation governing prisons, prisoners and those released from prison on licence. There is a considerable amount of human rights work and a great deal of litigation on exercise of Secretary of State powers and the operation of the statutory framework relating to the release and recall of prisoners often dealing with important question around the lawful detention of potentially dangerous people and conditions of imprisonment. Sentencing and the treatment of prisoners are big political issues so we work on a great deal of new primary legislation and draft a considerable amount of secondary legislation.

The MoJ Legal Directorate also has the following teams:

- Criminal (dealing with criminal offences and criminal procedure)
- Information Law and Human Rights (dealing with cross-government Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Human Rights matters)
- Civil and Family
- Legal Aid
- Corporate Advisory (dealing with MoJ procurement, contracts, property and other commercial advice to the department)
- Courts (dealing with advice to Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service and court rules)

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

I actually chose to work at the MoJ before it was part of TSol and was brought into TSol as part of the recent reconfiguration of the Sharing Legal Services programme. The move has been great for me because it has given me the opportunity to access posts in a huge range other government departments. As a result I successfully applied for a promotion to a role in a TSol team in the Treasury and will soon be going there to work on the new regulatory framework for the financial services industry.

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

Over the last year I have been working as the lead lawyer on the Offender Rehabilitation Bill which is going through parliament at the moment. It creates a new supervision period for short-term offenders after they are released from prison with the aim of reducing re-offending rates. It's been a huge challenge involving working closely with policy officials and ministers to instruct the drafters in detail on the provisions needed, advising ministers on the legal implications of different options, supporting ministers and officials from the officials box in both Houses of Parliament, preparing the supporting documents for Bill and responding to legal questions from parliamentarians including various specialist committees. We are nearing the end of the process and our Bill should make it into law soon.



## What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

Working with a great team on the Offender Rehabilitation Bill. The Bill had to be prepared at great pace and I have been seriously impressed by the quality of both legal and policy colleagues often under huge pressures. The willingness of colleagues, including our hugely talented drafters, to work together as a team to deliver the Bill has been fantastic.

## How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I start a new job at the Treasury very soon which will involve much more experience of European law including drafting domestic secondary legislation to implement recently agreed European directives and regulations and being involved in negotiating new instruments at a European level. I'm also looking forward to finding out how the department at the heart of government works and how it interacts with the Bank of England, the financial regulators and the City. After that is long way off but there's no shortage of interesting legal work in government.

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## Emily Rix, Grade 7 Lawyer, Department of Culture, Media, and Sport - Broadcasting and Regulated Industries team (a TSol Advisory Division)



I joined the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as a GLS trainee solicitor in September 2006. On qualification I took up a post in one of the HSE advisory teams. In 2009 the HSE advisory legal teams joined TSol. In April 2013 I moved to another advisory post within TSol, working in a team co-located within the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS).

### What does the DCMS Broadcasting and Regulated Industries, 16-19 commercial team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

The Division provides legal advice and support to the DCMS. There are three teams within the Division: Broadcasting & Telecommunications; Culture, Sport and Gambling; and Government Equalities Office. Although part of TSol, we are co-located as in-house legal advisers with our DCMS Departmental policy colleagues.

The work of the Division is very broad, reflecting the varied responsibilities of DCMS. As such, lawyers in the Division provide advice on areas as diverse as broadband, horse racing, the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, treasure, mobile phone masts, the BBC and tourism – to name but a few!

Examples of the work lawyers in the Division carry out include drafting statutory instruments, Bill work, briefing Ministers and advising DCMS on its relationships with the various agencies and public bodies with which it works.

As one of the smaller legal Divisions in TSol, there is plenty of opportunity for individual lawyers to take on the role of representing the Division at various TSol and cross-government groups.

The Broadcasting and Telecommunications Team advises on a wide range of domestic, EU and international law matters relating to communications, including:

- Policy and the regulation of television, radio and the press (e.g. BBC, digital radio, Leveson)
- Policy and the regulation of telecommunications and the internet (e.g. roll-out of superfast broadband, protecting children online, 4G, Ofcom)
- Competition law issues relating to media and telecoms (e.g. media mergers)

### **Why did you choose to work at TSol?**

For me, one of the main attractions of working at TSol is the opportunity for a varied career. There is a lot of interesting work going on across TSol, and as TSol grows there are more opportunities to develop your career by moving to other posts within TSol.

One of the benefits of being part of a department of lawyers is the opportunity to share skills and knowledge. As part of TSol's DCMS Legal Division I have the benefit of being co-located with clients, which allows us as lawyers to fully integrate with our departmental policy colleagues, while still being part of TSol and having access to TSol networks and training.

### **What type of work have you been involved in recently?**

I am one of several lawyers in the team who provide advice on policy areas related to the internet, radio spectrum and telecommunications generally. Particular policy areas that I have been involved in recently include providing legal support to work being done to make the internet safer for children, advising on issues related to nuisance calls, and providing legal support in relation to the management of radio spectrum.

### **What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?**

I think one of the pleasant surprises for me has been how much I have enjoyed the EU work that has been part of my job (I can't say I enjoyed EU law much at university!). In particular, getting involved at the negotiating stages of new EU legislation is interesting. One memorable experience was when I was advising policy colleagues on a proposal for new EU legislation; my policy clients had identified a problem with the wording of the proposed draft legislation which none of the other Member State delegations had picked up on. I had to work closely with Council legal advisers to come up with wording to ensure that the proposed legislation did achieve what it was intended to do.

Other discrete bits of work which have been highlights were drafting an Order in Council, which was made at a meeting of the Privy Council (it is not every day that your work is presented to a meeting of the Privy Council held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace!) and contributing to briefing for No 10.

### **How do you see your career in TSol developing?**

I've been with my current team for less than a year, so I hope to spend a few more years in this team, and then move to another advisory team within TSol.

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## Shailen Mehta, Grade 7 Lawyer, DfE Teaching, 16-19 Commercial Team (a TSol Advisory Division)



### What does the Department for Education Teaching, 16-19 commercial team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

Our team does a wide variety of work ranging from a series of teachers' issues e.g. pensions, pay and conditions, misconduct etc. to work on the national curriculum, qualifications (e.g. vocational, GCSEs, A-Levels), issues affecting young people and a range of commercial questions. Across the DfE legal team there are opportunities to gain legislative and commercial drafting skills; to work on government Bills; to advise on new policy initiatives; and to move to other advisory divisions.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

I was highly drawn to public service and wanted to gain exposure to high quality and challenging public law cases and advisory work.

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

I drafted an Order to bring the new national curriculum into effect; advising on GCSE and A Level reform; advising with the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) on a new skills programme called "Traineeships"; and working on a Hand Out Bill on data sharing.

### What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

Working on the first wave of the Free Schools programme in 2010-11; the first wave of University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools in 2011-12. A further stand out was drafting the new national curriculum order.

### How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I see it developing within TSol Advisory divisions; gaining more exposure to public law issues in different policy settings.

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## Ben Allen, Grade 7 Lawyer, Bona Vacantia, Companies Group



### What does the BV Companies Group team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

Companies Group in BV deals with the assets of dissolved companies that pass to the Crown. This can involve dealing with assets as diverse as train engines, film rights and graveyards, as well as trust, property and commercial law. There is a strong public law element to the work as well, notwithstanding its commercial nature. Lawyers have the opportunity to work on Freedom of Information and administrative law, advising on procurement and policy formation amongst other things.

### Why did you choose to work at TSol?

TSol offers the opportunity to do high-profile, complex legal work with a real public impact. There is an excellent working atmosphere at TSol and although the work can be pressured and demanding there is a real appreciation of the need for staff to have a good work-life balance.

### What type of work have you been involved in recently?

I have advised on the Division's Freedom of Information and publication policy, and have been involved in the management of a large commercial contract for the Division, as well as an extensive fraud investigation.

### What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?

Having one of my own decisions judicially reviewed and conducting the litigation to defeat the application. Drafting secondary legislation and advising ministers as a legal trainee was also quite a highlight!

### How do you see your career in TSol developing?

I have just been promoted to manage a small team of litigation lawyers, so I'm looking forward to spending the next few years working on public law litigation. Although you can't pick and choose what kind of work you do, one of the benefits of working at TSol is the opportunity to work in a wide range of areas of law over the course of your career as a whole. So in future I would hope to be able to work on public enquiries, or perhaps national security litigation.

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## Amy Carseldine, Grade 7 Lawyer, Litigation B3



### What does the Litigation B3 legal team do? What opportunities are there for lawyers within your division?

Litigation B3 deals with immigration cases for the Home Office. The majority of the cases are judicial review challenges, with some statutory appeals, and are heard in a variety of forums from the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal, the High Court, Court of Appeal and occasionally the Supreme Court.

Immigration is an ever changing and politically charged area in which to work. The Immigration Rules and related statutes are continually being amended and the cases we deal with challenge the validity and meaning of those amendments. It is not uncommon to have a case that will change (or at least threaten to change) a Home Office policy.

Case practices in Litigation B3 are varied, with cases raising a range of issues from student breaching their visa conditions to unlawful detention challenges. Judicial review cases resolve relatively quickly, meaning it is normal for caseworkers to see cases through to their completion.

### **Why did you choose to work at TSol?**

I was a government lawyer in Australia before moving to the UK, so TSol was a good fit! I think valuable work can be done in the public sector, which is why I've always chosen to work in Government.

TSol offers the possibility of a varied and interesting career. There is the ability to move around different areas of the department and to get experience in a range of different areas of law, something that I do not think is possible, or at least encouraged, in the private sector.

TSol also offers a good work/life balance. Workloads are realistic and there is flexibility in working to accommodate for family situations, something I have taken advantage of and found very beneficial.

### **What type of work have you been involved in recently?**

Recently, there has been a huge increase in Article 8 (the right to family and private life) challenges. The Immigration Rules have been amended such that there are only limited circumstances where it is considered proportionate that someone stay in the UK based on this right alone. This in turn has resulted in a large number of challenges to decisions refusing leave to remain in the UK. It has been really interesting to see new laws implemented and the challenges to those laws that have resulted.

### **What has been a stand-out experience since joining TSol?**

I recently had a case challenging a period of detention. The case was heard over two days and the eventual determination was very favourable to the Home Office. It was in fact so favourable that the determination could be used as a precedent for detainees from the same country. The Home Office was extremely happy with the result, and it was very satisfying to work on something that had such a successful outcome.

### **How do you see your career in TSol developing?**

I hope to be given increasingly complex immigration cases, so that I am able to continually challenge myself in this area. I also hope to take advantage of opportunities to move around the department, and in this regard I am particularly interested in working on a public inquiry.

