



LAWYERING SKILLS @ KENT LAW SCHOOL

STUDENT OUTDOOR CLERK SCHEME



OUTLINE FOR STUDENTS



A NEW initiative between Defence Solicitors of Kent, Kent Law Clinic and Kent Law School.

We are looking for a number of Final Stage Students to sign up to a fantastic new opportunity. If you are interested to know what happens at a Crown Court then this is something that will interest you.

As you will know, in the Crown Court, the defendant will often be represented by a barrister or in house solicitor advocate. In the past the solicitor's firm would send a representative (called an outdoor clerk) to attend court and sit behind the barrister to help during a trial or fact finding hearing. Owing to cuts to Legal Aid, this is no longer funded and barristers have had to fend for themselves.

An Outdoor Clerk was invaluable to the advocate for the following reasons:

1. They can take a full note of all the evidence – especially the cross examination. There used to be so many occasions when the clerk caught something that the advocate asking the questions missed – because they were busy on their feet.
2. They are a second pair of ears when the client has to be given certain advice and can make sure a proper note is taken when that advice is given.
3. They can provide a 'sounding board' for the advocate and provide a 'lay perspective' of how the jury might be assessing the trial
4. They can help to provide space for the advocate away from the client so that the advocate can focus on the case whilst the outdoor clerk divert the lay client.

Kent Law School, in consultation with the Kent Law Society, have set up a scheme whereby our students can attend court and act as a student outdoor clerk. Your role will be as outlined above. You will be asked to attend a trial (or parts of a trial).

Your attributes:

- You will have to give up some time for some evening training
- You will need to have a laptop & a mobile phone
- You will need to be able to get to Canterbury and/or Maidstone Crown Courts yourselves appropriately attired.
- You will need to be able to manage your time effectively and have the flexibility in your timetable to be able to re-arrange seminars if necessary. You will need to take responsibility for that yourselves.
- You will need to be able to show exceptional professionalism.

As well the excellent experience, this scheme also carries Employability Points.

www.kent.ac.uk/law