



"IN THE LEGAL SECTOR, THERE'S ALWAYS POTENTIAL FOR SOMEONE RICH AND FAMOUS TO WALK THROUGH THE DOOR!"

SHAUN ALEXANDER | LAWYER | NORTH SHIELDS

Lawyer, business owner, Associate Lecturer... Shaun Alexander's list of job titles reads like a CV of someone twice his age, but at just 28 years old, Shaun is living proof that age really is just a number.

Shaun can't recall exactly when he decided he wanted to work in the legal sector, but he thinks it might have been around the time he was sitting his GCSEs at Norham High School in North Shields and saw that Law was an A level option in Sixth Form.

"I really enjoyed History lessons throughout school and the theoretical side of law is quite similar to history, especially in the area I specialise in (Wills and Estate Planning)," Shaun said.

"There's a lot of historical cases and legislation which continues to have an effect, sometimes as long as 500 years later."

Choosing to leave school to attend a local Sixth Form College, then known as Tyne Metropolitan Sixth Form Academy, Shaun decided to pursue Law at A Level, alongside History and English Literature.

My law teacher at Sixth Form was very inspirational, which might sound strange to anyone who actually met him! He did what all good teachers do and made the subject he was teaching interesting and at times, I'd go as far as to say fascinating," Shaun said.

"At best, studying Law could lead to a career in law, but it's also a subject which teaches you very transferrable skills, like how to think critically and analyse data, which are useful in a number of other fields. For example, if you wanted to be a doctor, studying the laws relating to patient care would be a big part of your medical degree. Even just having a basic understanding of how our legal system works and how laws are made can be very useful."

Shaun went on to study an integrated Master's Degree in Law (M Law) at Northumbria University, graduating in 2014. From there, he worked for a number of law firms across the North East, specialising in various different areas of law. One firm Shaun worked with specialised in conveyancing (the legal process for buying and selling houses) and it was here he worked on his most exciting project to date.



CASE STUDY.

"It might be grasping at straws but I worked on the purchase of a house for a footballer who played for a team in London," Shaun said.

"This would sound a lot less cool if I told you who he was, but in the legal sector, there's always potential for someone rich and famous to walk through the door!"

By Shaun's own admission, his career progressed slowly until he started his own business, Alexander Legal Services, in 2018. Specialising in Wills and Estate Planning, Shaun helps clients to plan for later life (and death) by putting their affairs in place.

"Wills allow clients to record their wishes for what happens to their property and money after they pass away. Other planning can include making a Lasting Power of Attorney, which allows people to appoint someone to make decisions for them when they're too frail or unable to make decisions for themselves," Shaun explained.

"While the subject of death and incapacity is in no way a nice thing to discuss or consider, the practical, day-to-day aspect of my job is rewarding, because the services I carry out bring reassurance to clients who are perhaps worried about the future and what might happen when they're no longer here.

"Setting up my own firm was definitely the best thing I could have done," Shaun added.

"My career had progressed quite slowly up to that point, but since then, I've won an award for the 'Best Professional Estate Planning Service' in the North East and also began an Associate Lecturer role at Northumbria University, so I hope to have many more highlights in the future!"

When asked what advice he would give to a young person considering a career in Law, Shaun said:

"Not everyone will know what area of law they want to work in, and that's fine. Employers expect you to have experience these days and like to see that you've tried different things and took on new challenges, so my advice would be to do lots of work experience at different firms and try different areas of law each time.

"Even when you are employed, there's nothing wrong with moving to a different firm if you feel you aren't progressing or if you don't really like that area of law - there's so many different areas - from very niche firms specialising in shipping law or animal law, to large firms who have dozens of departments offering different services."

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