

# Baker McKenzie.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

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Junior Associate, Sydney  
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### Trading in the beach life for the city life

Having grown up in Newcastle, NSW, the opportunity to move to Sydney for the summer for a clerkship with Baker McKenzie was a big change of pace for someone like me. But a welcome one!

I had a mix of excitement and nervousness on my first day, but I knew I would be entering a workplace where I would feel welcome and supported. Throughout the clerkship process, Baker McKenzie had always been a breath of fresh air and reassurance when it came to calming my nerves in interviews or coffee dates. Even small things like getting a phone call before an interview to make sure I had made the 2 and a half hour train trip from Newcastle safely had a real effect on my decision to choose Baker McKenzie.

### Summer Clerkship

Being a summer clerk is fun. Being a clerk at Baker McKenzie is especially rewarding. Not only do you get the chance to forge new relationships with long lasting friends, but also the chance to be exposed to how a uniquely global firm operates day-to-day. My summer clerk rotations included Intellectual Property and Energy, Resources, Infrastructure and Corporate (or ERIC as we like to call it). My time in IP was especially exciting. I experienced first hand the trade mark work undertaken by the world-renowned Baker McKenzie IP team. From the outset, I was involved in real work. I reviewed and compiled contentious trademark evidence that would later be used in successful applications to the Federal Court. Given the size of our trademark portfolio, this meant compiling evidence from countries like France, Germany, Italy and Canada! At the end of the day I also thought it was pretty cool that I got to walk home through Pitt Street Mall and see the international clients I had done work for that day. I certainly wouldn't have had this opportunity anywhere else.

### #Gradlife

My three graduate rotations were in ERIC, Dispute Resolution, and Commercial Real Estate.

What surprised me most about the Graduate Program at Baker McKenzie was the amount of responsibility I was given as a junior lawyer. As a Graduate in ERIC, I managed colossal due diligence exercises for M&A deals that involved various Practice Groups across the Firm. I also assisted in the drafting of transaction documents and liaised directly with clients and the counterparts' solicitors on a daily basis. During my time in Commercial Real Estate, I assisted Senior Associates and Partners in the negotiation of a number of large, international hotel transactions. In my Dispute Resolution rotation, I worked on some of the largest litigation matters

and was the regular point of contact our senior counsel. I even received a few phone calls from former Justice of the High Court Dyson Heydon himself.

This degree of responsibility can initially be pretty daunting for any junior lawyer, but it was also the single greatest opportunity to accelerate my learning and development as a commercial lawyer. It also honed my drafting skills and allowed me to sink my teeth into real work straight away.

### Being a Global Associate

In October 2017, I settled in our ERIC team as a Junior Associate. Being a permanent fixture in a practice group allows you to concentrate on longer projects and better focus on your career development. I assisted and led a number of complex local and global matters. Since settling in ERIC, I've been responsible for liaising with our Amsterdam office on restructuring issues associated with the sale of a wind farm in NSW for a Singaporean client, establishing Australian entities for a large Canadian pension fund, the continuing development of a mineral mine in Portugal, and assisting a US client in the ongoing establishment, development, and management of a first of its kind greenfield solar project in Australia. I am also an active member of the Baker McKenzie BakerLGBTI & Allies Committee.

Settling in ERIC has also given me a chance to become involved in long running pro bono projects. One of these has been developing a global survey for Outright International. A not-for-profit organisation headquartered in New York advocating for the human rights of LGBTI individuals around the world. Baker McKenzie's unique global network, including our one of a kind legal support office in Belfast, enables us to help clients gather information and legal advice from all of our offices in a single efficient process. Together with another Associate (who I originally clerked with) we have been solely responsible for administering, reviewing and finalising Outright International's global survey. We have been in regular contact with over 40 offices at any one time and can now recall most of the major time zones around the world, which is pretty handy in my day to day work.

Starting my career at Baker McKenzie has been a whirlwind adventure in the world of corporate and commercial law. I've been practicing for nearly 2 years now and it only seems like yesterday I walked into this firm as a Summer Clerk. I have enjoyed my time immensely and I can see a long and successful career ahead of me at Baker McKenzie. I wouldn't want to work anywhere else.