

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

### Elizabeth Pearson

Graduate, Sydney  
International Clerk, Hong Kong



### 77 offices, 47 countries, 1 truly global culture

Baker McKenzie was my number one choice for a Summer Clerkship because it is an international firm that doesn't just talk the talk of being global; it walks the walk. Baker McKenzie's lawyers are actively encouraged and supported at all stages of their careers to think and work globally, regardless of where their desks are physically located. As a Summer Clerk, I rotated through the Construction and Dispute Resolution Practice Groups and worked on Australian matters for clients who are household names around the world. I was absolutely thrilled to be given the opportunity to complete an International Clerkship with our Hong Kong office before starting as a Graduate in Sydney.

### Asia's World City

I flew into Hong Kong in February 2017, just in time to catch the end of the Chinese New Year festivities. It was my first time in Hong Kong and I was blown away by the vibrant culture, frenetic pace and remarkable heritage of the pulsing city. The Baker McKenzie Hong Kong office is situated on Hong Kong Island, with uninterrupted views of the harbour





on one side and views of the dramatic Victoria Peak rising steeply on the other.

The office culture was friendly and I was made to feel very welcome. I took the Mass Transit Rail to work every morning and caught the iconic Star Ferry home across Victoria Harbour each evening— a very glamorous commute enjoying the spectacular skyline and the world's largest permanent laser show! During my lunch break, I explored the historic district of Central. In just a few blocks I would walk past modern shopping malls, skyscrapers, gardens, colonial architecture, then turn a corner to find heritage trams and traditional street markets.

Working for a global firm in Asia's World City made these experiences all the sweeter.

## Tax and trade

I was incredibly excited to be placed in the Tax and Trade Practice Group. Baker McKenzie's Tax Practice is one of the most acclaimed and highly regarded in the world, and the Hong Kong Practice is no exception, ranked Band 1 by Chambers Global. It was a real privilege to work alongside and learn from the Hong Kong team. These were not just incredible lawyers at the top of their fields but amazing, genuine people who were very generous with their time and advice. The work was exhilarating and rewarding.

My tasks included drafting client advice and correspondence, researching and undertaking comparative cross-jurisdictional analysis on a wide range of legal issues: from Hong Kong tax and trust ordinances, case law and policy; to Chinese and Japanese export laws; to the domestic enforcement of international conventions concerning anti-money laundering and the exchange of residents' financial information across a dozen different jurisdictions.

My clerkship was international in every sense of the word. Hong Kong is a global financial hub and an integral part of Baker McKenzie's Joint Asian Offices (JAO). One of the many highlights for me was working shoulder to shoulder with colleagues across borders through the JAO. I participated in meetings and professional development with colleagues from our offices in Shanghai, Beijing, Singapore and Malaysia. What really struck me about the JAO was the sense of camaraderie across offices, a real testament to the firm's culture of friendship.

No two days were the same and almost every task involved a cross-border element. Working in another jurisdiction and engaging with different law opened my eyes to the opportunities and nuances of cross-border commercial law. I developed my global business acumen and learnt to appreciate the needs of clients doing business across borders in the twenty-first century. I have developed a network of international contacts, colleagues and friends that I will continue to keep in touch with throughout my career.

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