

Alex Ortiz



Project:

Execution of Documents Project

Previous experience:

Before joining the Commission, I worked in M&A and commodities trading before deciding to retrain as a solicitor in Scotland. I completed the accelerated LLB at the University of Dundee and Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at the University of Edinburgh. During my legal studies I volunteered with Citizens Advice supporting clients and gaining valuable insight into the everyday impact of the law.

Future plans:

Following my time at the Commission, I will begin a traineeship with Addleshaw Goddard, where I hope to build on the legal research, drafting and policy development skills I have developed through law reform work.

Can you tell us about a recent piece of work?

I contributed to the preparation of the Discussion Paper on Execution of Documents, including drafting a chapter relating to special cases and carrying out legal and comparative research. As part of the project, I attended meetings with stakeholders from government, academia and legal practice to discuss developments in the law relating to the execution of documents and electronic signatures.

I also participated in the GLSS AI Committee, helping to explore opportunities and challenges associated with the future use of AI within government legal services.

Why would you recommend being a legal assistant?

Being a legal assistant provides a unique opportunity to see how legal reform happens in practice. The role allowed me to work on issues with real significance for legal practitioners, businesses and members of the public. It helped further develop my legal research, drafting and analytical skills. It also gave me the chance to engage directly with stakeholders and contribute to discussions about how the law should develop in response to changes in society, business and technology.

What's the best thing about being a legal assistant?

The best part of the role has been the variety of work and the opportunity to learn from experts across the legal profession. No two weeks were quite the same, and I particularly enjoyed being trusted to contribute to substantive areas of law reform while working as part of a supportive and collaborative team.