

February 2th 2016

## #LWOW2016: Life post KickOff

[Ludmilla Le Grand](#), an associate in Eversheds' competition, EU and regulatory group, reflects on her experience as an Eversheds mentor in LWOW2016 since the programme KickOff in Madrid earlier this year.

[Eversheds is the global law firm partner of LawWithoutWalls](#) (LWOW), collaborative academic programme that explores innovation in legal education and practice. Practising lawyers (Eversheds associates and clients) mentor teams of the top law and business students from around the world over four months to help them to develop legal tech start-ups to pitch to investors. [The groups met in Madrid for KickOff on 16/17th January and will meet again in Miami in April.](#)

Having spent the first few weeks back in our respective home countries, recharging our batteries after a fantastic KickOff weekend in Madrid, it was now time to roll up our sleeves and get down to business! KickOff was, without a doubt, one of the most inspiring and energising weekends I have ever had. It was fantastic to see how the student teams, meeting for the first time, came together so quickly to produce such brilliant ideas. I am excited to think about how much these teams will achieve after a few months of working together!

After many emails trying to work out the time difference between our respective countries, my student team had its first post-Madrid call on Tuesday. We were a bit webcam shy at first but it was great to see everyone again! Our students had made good progress in thinking about, and narrowing down, their topic. With a little guidance from the mentors (each team has an Eversheds lawyer and one of our clients to guide them) they agreed on some areas to progress.

The next day, a chilly, grey Wednesday evening was lightened up by "seeing" all the people from KickOff at the first official LWOW Live session. These are weekly webinars run by experts, video-linking the entire LWOW community. Jeff Polish, who teaches better communication through storytelling, showed us how simple and subtle storytelling techniques could make a complete difference to how captivating and persuasive we are in our everyday professional and personal lives. I have no doubt that Jeff's tips will be invaluable to




the students when it comes to presenting their Projects of Worth in Miami; and surprisingly so to the lawyers in our working lives! This is just an example of how through sponsorship of this groundbreaking programme, Eversheds is ensuring that we learn skills, in a fun and innovative way, that will change how we approach working as a lawyer.

On the same webinar, a few LWOWers (including me!) shared a moment in our lives that caused us to make a career decision. One of the inspirational stories was about the challenges faced by working mothers; it was a reminder of the genuine value of input from a really diverse mix of people and experiences. All the support and encouragement made it incredibly easy to open up and talk – give me that kind of crowd any day!

It is only Week 3 and I can already feel the positive, dynamic LWOW mentality seeping into my everyday life. I am so looking forward to working with everyone over the next few months!

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