

Alexander Reid

TRAINEE SOLICITOR



Birmingham, United Kingdom | alexander.reid@gmail.com | +44 7856 293 417 | linkedin.com/in/alexanderreid-law

Law graduate from the University of Birmingham with a First Class LLB and practical experience from a vacation scheme at a top-50 UK law firm. Won the university moot court championship and spent **80+ hours** advising real clients through the pro bono legal clinic. Passed the SQE1 assessment on the first attempt with a score in the **top 15% nationally**. Analytical, articulate, and committed to building a career in commercial litigation.

EXPERIENCE

Vacation Scheme Student, Shoosmiths LLP, Birmingham

Jun 2025 – Jun 2025

Completed a 2-week vacation scheme rotating through the commercial litigation and real estate departments.

- Drafted a **15-page research memo** on contractual limitation clauses for a commercial dispute valued at **£2.8 million**
- Reviewed and summarised **45 disclosure documents** for an ongoing breach of contract claim
- Attended **3 client meetings** and a court hearing at Birmingham Civil Justice Centre, taking detailed notes for the supervising associate
- Received a training contract offer at the end of the scheme, one of **8 offers from 24 participants**

Legal Administration Assistant (Part-Time), Irwin Mitchell, Birmingham

Oct 2024 – May 2025

Provided administrative support to the personal injury team while studying.

- Managed incoming correspondence and file organisation for **35 active cases**
- Drafted **60+ client letters** and witness statement summaries under solicitor supervision
- Liaised with **20+ medical experts** to chase outstanding reports, reducing average wait times by **5 working days**

EDUCATION

LLB (Hons) Law in Law, University of Birmingham, Birmingham

Sep 2022 – Jul 2025

Graduated with First Class Honours (**74% average**). Final year dissertation on the enforceability of penalty clauses in commercial contracts post-Cavendish Square v Makdessi, graded **78%**.

- Relevant modules: Contract Law, Tort Law, Commercial Law, Land Law, EU Law, Criminal Law, Equity & Trusts, Public Law
- Awarded the **Slaughter and May Prize** for highest mark in Commercial Law (**82%**)
- Passed **SQE1 (Solicitors Qualifying Examination)** on first attempt, scoring in the **top 15%** nationally

SKILLS

Legal Research (Westlaw, LexisNexis) • Case Analysis • Legal Drafting • Client Interviewing • Contract Review • Advocacy & Oral Presentation • Document Review & Disclosure • Microsoft Office Suite • ICLR & CaseTrack • Time Recording • Attention to Detail • Critical Thinking • Professional Communication • Team Collaboration

CERTIFICATIONS

SQE1 (Solicitors Qualifying Examination Part 1), Solicitors Regulation Authority

Jul 2025 – Jul 2025

LawWorks Pro Bono Volunteer Certificate, LawWorks

Jun 2025 – Jun 2025

LANGUAGES

English - Native • Welsh - Basic (A1)

PROJECTS

University of Birmingham Moot Court Championship

Oct 2024 – Mar 2025

Completed in the university's internal mooting competition, arguing appellate cases on contract and tort law.

- Won **all 4 rounds** of the competition, defeating **15 other teams** to claim the championship title
- Prepared skeleton arguments of **3,000-5,000 words** for each round, researching and citing **25+ authorities**
- Awarded **Best Oralist** in the final round by a panel of **3 practising barristers** from St Philips Chambers
- Selected to represent the university at the **Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot 2025**

Birmingham Law School Pro Bono Legal Clinic

Sep 2024 – Jun 2025

Advised members of the public on employment and housing law through the university's free legal clinic.

- Conducted **16 client interviews** and prepared **12 formal advice letters** under the supervision of qualified solicitors
- Advised on issues including unfair dismissal, deposit disputes, and Section 21 eviction notices
- Contributed **80+ hours** of pro bono work over the academic year
- Helped **3 clients** successfully recover tenancy deposits totalling **£4,600** through the TDS dispute resolution service

REFERENCES

Sarah Pemberton

Partner, Commercial Litigation, Shoosmiths LLP

sarah.pemberton@shoosmiths.co.uk, +44 7700 900 892

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

President - University of Birmingham Law Society

Sep 2024 – Jun 2025

Led the university's largest academic society with **450 members**.

- Organised **18 events** including law firm open evenings, panel discussions, and networking dinners with firms including Allen & Overy, DLA Piper, and Gowling WLG
- Secured **£6,500 in sponsorship** from **5 law firms** to fund society activities for the year
- Launched a mentoring programme pairing **30 first-year students** with third-year mentors

Volunteer - Citizens Advice Birmingham

Oct 2023 – Jun 2024

Volunteered as a gateway assessor at the Birmingham Citizens Advice bureau.

- Conducted initial assessments for **8-12 clients per shift** during **32 weekly sessions**
- Triaged enquiries covering benefits, debt, housing, and employment, referring clients to appropriate specialist advisers
- Completed **40 hours** of Citizens Advice training in advice skills, data protection, and equality and diversity