



## 60 seconds with... Sneha Nainwal

### Why did you decide to train as a solicitor?

With my father having been a member of the Indian Judiciary for over 30 years, law has had a major impact on my life from the very start. The memory of watching my father at the dais in his courtroom, wearing his black robe, is still powerful and inspiring.

But my decision to become a solicitor actually evolved over time. I was an inquisitive child and at school, this curiosity developed into a quest for academic research and love for debates. Being naturally good with numbers, I began to prefer quantitative subjects like maths and accountancy and enjoyed logical reasoning. On finishing school, I knew that my skills were best suited for a career that valued nobility of knowledge and logical aptitude – law was then an obvious choice!

### What were the biggest challenges you faced when trying to secure a training contract?

Given that both my bachelor degrees in law and legal internships took place in India, it was difficult to present my international qualification and foreign work experience into a format that would be recognised by UK recruiters. In addition, I had to submit all of my applications while I was already working as a full-time lawyer in India, so finding the discipline to complete the lengthy applications and manage the logistics of flying out to attend interviews was quite challenging.

### Tell us a bit about the type of work handled by the department you're in at the moment ...

I am currently doing a split seat in the Energy and Corporate teams.

The energy team advises on the full range of UK and European energy law and policy. The work involves advising on and drafting power purchase agreements, fuel supply and offtake agreements, network

arrangements and associated project documentation. "The corporate department undertakes company and commercial law work including share and asset acquisitions and disposals, private equity transactions, shareholder arrangements, investment funds, partnerships, restructuring and joint ventures.

### What are the most enjoyable aspects of your job?

Having previously worked at other law firms, both in London and India, what I find truly unique about Shakespeare Martineau is its people. They are intelligent, enthusiastic and fun-loving – which creates a positive and collaborative atmosphere in the office. Everyone at the firm, from the supporting network to the partners, is very approachable and always willing to help.

The best part is that I am always learning something new from each interaction – be it the complex energy legislation or a (even more complex) reverse pendulum backspin serve in table tennis.

I can honestly say that I enjoy coming to work every day!

### Quick fire questions!

Where's the best place to go to get your office's gossip?

The table tennis practice sessions.

Who's the most recent email in your inbox from, and what's it about?

It is from a client looking to schedule a conference call for discussing a firm frequency response agreement.

Describe your training partner in 3 words

Sharp, meticulous and witty.