

Being seconded to Hogan Lovells

1. Why did you apply for a secondment?

Hogan Lovells is a sponsoring law firm in the International Lawyers for Africa programme (ILFA). In 2012; I was nominated as the ILFA Candidate to be seconded to Hogan Lovells. It was very exciting as the firm has over 30 years' experience in Africa and has done numerous projects, including in raising finance through debt capital markets and private equity on the continent.

2. Was the work in London very different?

Very much, City law firms in London are extremely big (in terms of size and number of lawyers) and are also highly specialized. On the other hand, legal practice in Uganda is to a larger extent still general. Working at Hogan Lovells therefore gave me a new experience in terms of the high level of specialization in different aspects of the law and business development and the work culture. For example in my last seat I sat with a partner in private equity which was daunting at the start as in Uganda it is rare to share an office with a partner. But with time, it was a great experience - I became more comfortable and learnt a great deal from the partner.

3. What did you get the most out of your secondment?

I was involved in different securitization projects in the International Debt Capital Markets practice. I undertook different training sessions in capital markets, corporate law and project financing, business development, presentation skills and networking which were very enriching. The contacts made in London have also been very helpful since I have returned to Uganda.

4. Did you enjoy living in London?

I loved London, there is just so much to do and see. Most memorable was attending a live match at the Wembley stadium for the world cup qualifiers between England and San Marino and meeting football legend John Burns.

5. Has the secondment changed the way you work?

Absolutely, I now have a greater understanding of different aspects of the law especially in Finance and Commercial law. I have increased my confidence, and have been able to apply the new skills that I have learnt to my daily work. I have also built lasting relationships with many colleagues and clients.

6. What would your advice be for future secondees?

The secondment is an amazing experience and so future secondees should look to make sure that they get the best out of it. They should also take advantage of the different training sessions held by Hogan Lovells and maintain the contacts they have made on their return to their home countries.



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