

## Alumna profile: Claire Sharp

Claire Sharp completed her LLB in 1998. She is now the youngest Employment Judge in tribunals in Wales and is also a civil insolvency solicitor-advocate.

Claire writes, "One of the most positive aspects of my degree was the grounding in the basic tenets of the law (as well as the social life and meeting my now-husband!). I graduated from Birmingham and undertook a post-graduate course, securing a training contract to become a solicitor with a large regional firm, and eventually specialised in insolvency law and became dual-qualified as a solicitor-advocate. This means I can now present a case from the very start all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary, while remaining able to accept instructions direct from clients.

"I then decided I needed a new challenge and applied to be appointed an Employment Judge in 2009. Much to my surprise, I was appointed in 2010 and believe I am the youngest Employment Judge currently sitting. I have as a result had to master an entirely new area of law using the techniques first learnt at the University of Birmingham.

"If I was to give advice to students studying at Birmingham, I would say get involved in as much as possible - I was involved in several groups and societies which gave me valuable skills for my CV, contacts for my careers and friends!"

