

UK Fox Scholars have been warmly welcomed to Canada since 1985 as part of the Harold G Fox Scholarship. Canadian lawyers have also enjoyed the hospitality of the Inns of Court and Chambers of London spending time as 'pupils' as part of the reciprocal exchange scholarship. From September 2017 to July 2018 I became one of the two latest Fox Scholars to embark upon this experience.

Having never travelled further west in the world than Dublin I embarked for Toronto with some trepidation but excitement at the prospect of experiencing a new continent, city and professional life with the added bonus of a shared language. Arriving in Toronto in September to a deceptively warm extended summer I began my placement with Lenczner Slaght Royce Smith Griffin ("Lencznors"), a premier force in litigation practice in Canada. As a boutique litigation practice Lencznors' had both the close knit feel of a London Chambers and the corporate air of a city law firm; an epitome of the fused profession.

I was warmly welcomed to Lencznors with a firm breakfast, paired with the task of remembering as many names as possible in the whirlwind meet and greet. I was fortunate to start my placement only shortly after the 2017-18 articling students had begun their articles. The group of students were excellent mentors to me during my time at the firm and will be lasting friends now I am back on English soil.

I was privileged to work with a large number of the litigators at Lencznors, to embark upon a wealth of interesting and complex work and to be given independence in this work from the outset. Some of the highlights included:

- Identifying where an incomplete quotation of a Supreme Court of Canada authority had set the law of tracing in deemed statutory trusts and insolvency upon a questionable path and attending the motion hearing in this case.
- Applying for, and successfully obtaining, leave to appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal on a Limitations Act question.
- Helping with a three-week trial in St Catherine's representing the Ministry of Corrections against a former prisoner in a personal injuries matter. Researching the law in this area and drafting a large part of the closing submissions made me a true part of the trial team.
- Involvement in an inquiry, construction mediation, misrepresentation based small claims trial and anti-slapp defamation case.

Beyond this, I was exposed to the wide array of Lencznors' work, from medical negligence suits through class actions and corporate litigation I did a great deal of research tasks but also assisted with the drafting of statements of case and factums. The work offered as part of the Scholarship provides an exceptional precursor to commencing pupillage.

Beyond the work at our firms, myself and Joshua Happe attended the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa and were hosted by Justice Moldaver. We watched and discussed an appeal and were privileged to take lunch with Justices Moldaver, Cote and Brown after the hearing. The trip was legally interesting and afforded us a chance to see another great Canadian city at the heart of its politics. I was luckily able to make the trip to Ottawa on a further occasion

with Will McDowell and Brian Kolenda to observe the hearing of the Goldhar defamation and jurisdiction appeal.

Though the sixth month -30°C winter overstayed its welcome Toronto itself is an excellent city to visit and live in. Toronto has both the glamour of gleaming apartment blocks and corporate offices as well as the natural element of the waterfront and green spaces such as high park. Torontonians are forced to embrace underground living on the path network during the harsh winters but when spring and summer do arrive the opposite extreme prevails and +30°C is not uncommon. Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of Toronto life was the cities embrace of activity. The apartments provided by the Trust are located on the lakeshore by the Martin Goodman Trail which would constantly feature runners, cyclists and the occasional rollerblade skier no matter the weather. Enjoyment of this lifestyle prompted me to enter my first 10k race, take up bouldering and compete in an inter-firm charity volleyball tournament as part of the articling and summer student cohort.

Toronto and the Fox Scholarship both have a great deal to offer and give back as much as one is willing to invest. A Fox Scholar placed at Lencznars can take on as much of the challenging and interesting work as they have appetite for and can explore all that Toronto and Ontario have to offer in the same fashion. But for good skiing, Jay Peak Vermont would be my recommendation as knee deep powder is hard to turn down.

My thanks to the Trustees of the Fox Fund in Canada and England, all those at Middle Temple who coordinate the programme as well all those at Lenczner Slaght, and the articling students: Sarah S, Graham, Jon, Zach, Sean and Sarah B.

The Fox Scholarship is a primer to pupillage or a supplement for existing practitioners unlike any other and has the benefit of being open to members of any of the four Inns; I cannot recommend it highly enough.

James Saunders