

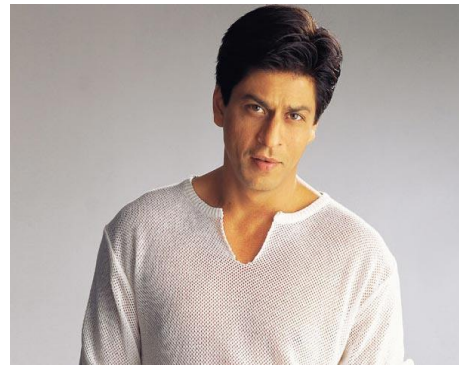
Anna Maria Deligkari

- 2nd-year law undergraduate student
- Legal intern at ALMT Legal in Mumbai, India, through Queen Mary Pro Bono Society's International Placement Program, 15th July – 5th August

A bit about myself and what I was looking for:

I am 19 years old and I come from Thessaloniki, Greece. At the time of starting the placement, I had just completed my first year of Law studies. I was seeking for a placement that would provide me with exposure to various areas of law – for that matter, ALMT Legal is a multi-practice law firm employing both advocates and solicitors – and which would also take place in a country where my knowledge from my first-year law studies would both prove of use and further crystallize – India, being a former British colony, follows a Common Law system very much similar to the British one.

On top of the above, before applying for the placement, I had already been obsessed with anything and everything Indian for a good 4 years, without ever having visited India though! I watch endless Bollywood movies, listen to Indian music, read, at both academic and personal levels, around Indian History, Economy, Culture and Politics and have taught myself some Hindi, to the extent that I could sufficiently communicate with locals while I was there. All my friends, even the Indian ones, say that I am first Indian and then Greek, or at least that in one of my previous lives I was Indian.



➤ **Shahrukh Khan: the King/ Badshah of Bollywood and personal favorite**

In short, this internship seemed like the ideal opportunity for me; gaining legal work experience in a Common Law country that is one of the up-and-coming economies of the world while making my dream of visiting India, the country which I had been obsessing about for so long, true!

A bit about ALMT and my placement there:

ALMT Legal is a medium-size multi-practice international law firm with Indian expertise, based in Nariman Point, Mumbai, with offices also in Bangalore and London. It is a leading firm in India and its strongest departments are litigation and the corporate one.



➤ **Nariman Point, Mumbai**



➤ **A confused Anna Maria trying to figure out what is going on in a complex Land Law case**

Over the course of my placement, I studied, prepared notes, summarized and discussed five on-going complicated cases of the firm in areas as versatile as Land, Employment, Contract, Competition, Arbitration, Domestic violence and Criminal law. I also studied and applied a variety of Indian Laws like ss05 (breach of trust) and 499 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code, s4 of the Competition Act (the illegal limitation of market access) and s16 of the Arbitration Act 2002 (the independence of arbitration clauses). Additionally, I researched the legal status of the creation of debenture redemption reserves for

issuing debentures under s71 of the Companies Act, and whether specific performance clauses are upheld in the UK and India



➤ **The Honorable Bombay High Court**

Finally, I assisted in collecting and compiling necessary evidence for cases pending court hearing, I drafted an intervention application to the Honorable Bombay High Court and I attended client meetings, counsel briefings and court hearings at the Bombay High Court.

A bit about India (mainly Mumbai) itself:

In short, India is a country of extremes! It is one of the greatest economies in the world and home to some of the richest and most influential people in the world while at the same time, it has some of the biggest and poorest slums in the world. It is extremely beautiful but at times extremely dirty and polluted. It has a rich heritage and history in aspects like Medicine, the Natural Sciences and Art, while retaining high illiteracy amongst its population. The friction between deep-rooted traditions and modernization is rampant. You can notice such extremes even amongst people who visit it; people either absolutely love it or absolutely hate it! And I, for sure, belong to the first category.



➤ **Skyscrapers & slums in Andheri West, Mumbai**

What I did while there:

There are endless of choices about how to spend your free time in Mumbai; libraries, museums, sightseeing, local markets, shops, shopping malls, restaurants, cafeterias, bars and amazing nightlife! Everything seemed so cheap compared to London prices!



➤ **Jewelry at the Colaba Market**

Also, I visited my friend in Kolkata, who had invited me to



➤ **Meeting new people in Kolkata**

➤ **The Leopold Café is a stunning place in Colaba, Mumbai, that opened in 1901. It is one of the oldest buildings in the city that was attacked during the 1993 bombings. Bullet marks are still visible on the walls.**



spend Eid with them,

which gave me the chance to experience my first Eid, meet

new people and wear traditional Muslim-Indian clothes: kurtas and suits!

What did I learn through the placement? Did my experience beat my expectations?

Within the law firm my expectations were beaten greatly because I got the



chance to apply, use and consolidate my knowledge of the Law, I experienced and gained insight into new areas, I felt like I actually made a difference at the firm by helping out the lawyers there, made important connections that are active



in the UK and internationally as well, and, above all, I have come back much more determined about my decision to pursue Law and about what exact route I would like to follow.

Even outside law firm I learnt a lot! I learnt my way through a different culture, thousands of miles away from home and back as an individual. I came back as an individual.



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All in all, it is a trip which I believe will have a lasting impact on me at both a personal and a professional level and for this, I will never regret taking it!

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