

## Q&A WITH BETTINA BENDER (LLB 1991), PARTNER AT CM MURRAY LLP



### *What led you to study at LSE?*

I found the slightly more radical, left leaning reputation appealing (I was young!).

### *What do you most remember from your time at the School?*

I remember being part of a team from the International Relations Society organising a student trip to the then Soviet Union, with Gorbachev still at the helm; an amazing opportunity.

### *What have been the highlights of your career so far?*

I spent a number of years working in the employment law departments of City and National law firms. I then joined my former boss from Fox Williams when in 2006 she set up a specialist employment and partnership law practice, CM Murray LLP – joining and growing our firm has been a real highlight.

### *How has what you learned at LSE influenced your career?*

LSE brings together people from many different backgrounds, takes a global approach to issues and fosters critical intellectual debate. When working in the legal profession, particularly if you have an international client base, that background is invaluable.

### *Any advice for LSE students today?*

I spent a number of years trying to work out what area of law suited me best and spent time (in very junior positions) at the BBC, Deutsche Bank and I also undertook some voluntary work for a law centre. I then started my Training Contract (which had been hard to come by, a recession was on). My first seat was in employment law; that was it, I had found my niche. My advice to anyone starting their legal career is to hold out for an area of the law you enjoy: you will spend most of your life at work; it may as well be interesting and fun.