

# Pen Portrait Chris Williams



What is your job?

Partner (Solicitor) at Clyde & Co, London

What years did you attend Lewis School Pengam?

1989 - 1994

What qualifications/work experience do you need to achieve a job in your chosen field?

Degree and post graduate qualification

What happens in a typical day in work for you? For example the times of your day, your role and responsibilities?

There is enormous variation depending on the client demand and where in the world the client is based. Working in a global law firm, the morning can be spent dealing with Australia and the night time with the West Coast of the USA and other time zones in between during the day. The work is always challenging and exciting and can range from providing a client with advice on a rapidly developing issue to preparing or defending an urgent application before a Court in the UK or overseas.

What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy that what I do underpins the ability and willingness of companies to innovate. More specifically, for the results of investment in innovation to be protected against infringement. This protection encourages further innovation which leads to new ways of doing things from the development of computer software to pharmaceuticals to renewable energy.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

To properly advise a client I need to fully understand the concerns the client is facing. On one hand I need to understand the technical matters underlying a particular dispute and on the other the psychology of the client and the opponent(s). There are often various commercial and wider reputational considerations that need to be taken into account when undertaking litigation which can often override the strict legal merits of a case. It's necessary to understand when a case may succeed on the strict legal merits but the ultimate consequence to the client might outweigh the victory. Keeping all of these plates spinning can be a challenge, albeit one that is both enjoyable and rewarding.