

RICHARD MILO BROOKS

TRAINEE SOLICITOR

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Trainee solicitor at Gardner Leader LLP approaching qualification, with experience across corporate M&A, corporate advisory, commercial real estate, private client and complex commercial disputes. Passed SQE1 and SQE2 first time, achieving top-quintile performance across all assessments while completing a training contract. Seeking a full-time NQ corporate or commercial role in private practice or in-house in London from late 2026, with particular interest in transactional and advisory work.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Gardner Leader LLP

Trainee Solicitor

Newbury and Swindon

March 2025 - Present

Corporate and Commercial

- Advised clients on sell-side corporate transactions, including the sales of Herts & Essex Fertility Centre Limited (c. £10m), PRP Optoelectronics Limited (c. £11m) and Pontrilas Group, a £120m-turnover business, and a sale to NorthEdge-backed Contollo Group.
- Drafted and reviewed shareholder agreements, bespoke articles of association, board and shareholder resolutions and Companies House documents for corporate governance and transactional matters.
- Supported the M&A transactions from due diligence and disclosure through to completion, working with SPAs, disclosure letters, warranties and indemnities, post-completion filings while managing data rooms.
- Researched and advised on the National Security and Investment Act, EIS requirements, directors' duties and conflicts, and the impact of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023.
- Assisted with corporate structuring and investment matters, including family investment companies, and worked with clients and accountants to implement agreed structures.
- Prepared and advised on commercial contracts including privacy policies, introducer agreements and debt collection agreements.

Commercial Real Estate

- Drafted and negotiated commercial leases and renewals, subleases, licences to occupy, rent deposit deeds, land purchase agreements, TR1s and deeds of covenant; advised clients on the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 procedures and submitted Stamp Duty Land Tax returns.
- Prepared reports on title, drafted and reviewed CPSEs, and progressed Land Registry applications.
- Advised on complex adverse possession claims.
- Provided real estate support on corporate and M&A matters by reviewing property interests, coordinating due diligence and reporting material issues.

Private Client

- Assisted with wills, estate planning, LPAs, probate and estate administration for high-net-worth individuals and clients with complex family and asset arrangements.
- Advised on trust creation, administration and taxation, including declarations of trust, trust distributions, Trust Registration Service compliance and post-death planning; worked with accountants on tax-efficient structures.
- Undertook charity law work, including establishing and registering charities and foundation CIOs, drafting constitutions and grant-making policies, advising on Gift Aid eligibility, and preparing Charity Commission filings and accounts.

Firm Contribution

- Led the firm's Evolve AI working group, designed and analysed a firm-wide survey, developed department-specific training proposals, recommended an AI champion network and became an AI Champion.
- Proposed and implemented the use of Otter.ai, an auto-transcription service, during a demanding 2024 trial-preparation period, helping a stretched litigation team capture and use witness-interview information more efficiently.

Gardner Leader LLP

Commercial Litigation Paralegal

Newbury
February 2024 - February 2025

- Worked on a US\$1.2bn multi-jurisdictional commercial-fraud claim, analysing disclosure and evidence and supporting preparation for High Court trial.
- Assisted with a quantum hearing in a £40m hotel mismanagement arbitration.
- Prepared for and attended the three-week High Court trial in *Titanium Capital Investments Ltd and another v Hughes and others* [2025] EWHC 682 (Ch), a £40m partnership dispute.
- Drafted correspondence to clients, opponents and the court, prepared instructions to counsel and hearing bundles, and assisted with settlement and costs correspondence.

LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS

Solicitors Qualifying Examination

SQE1 and SQE2

2025 - 2026

- Passed SQE1 in July 2025 and SQE2 in February 2026, both at the first attempt and with top-quintile performance across all assessments.
- Completed both stages alongside full-time training contract commitments.

EDUCATION

Oxford Brookes University

Graduate Diploma in Law

Oxford
2022 - 2023

- Distinction (76% average); highest mark in Land Law.
- Brookes Edge Award; Client Interviewing competitor and student coordinator; Mooting competitor.

University of Bristol

BA History

Bristol
2019 - 2022

- Upper Second-Class Honours (68% average).
- Churchill Hall Treasurer; Debating Society Committee; University Tennis and Hockey Teams.

Marlborough College

A Levels and Pre U

Marlborough
2013 - 2018

- A*AAB, including D2 in History Pre-U; EPQ A*.
- 11 A*s at GCSE.
- Major Academic and Sports Scholar; Dunford Cup; Hockey and Rackets Captain; Prefect.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pegasystems Ltd

Legal Work Experience

Reading
October 2023

- Researched how the EU AI Act would apply to high-risk AI deployers and supported contract review and document analysis with the in-house legal team.

Redcrest Ltd

Manager

Newbury
June 2020 - December 2023

- Managed a 15-person team delivering events in a fast-paced customer-facing environment.

INTERESTS

Tennis; golf; cooking; legal history; coding and AI.