

Day in the Life of Rebecca Redhead, Director of Legal Services



What is your position/role at Systech?

I am a Director and non-practising Barrister providing legal and commercial advice to clients on contentious and non-contentious matters.

What is your typical day?

When I'm working in the Systech office I deal with a wide range of issues for our clients. Usually this is with a legal focus, but often the solutions to clients' problems need a range of expertise. A core aspect of Systech's services is that we are multi-disciplinary, so I often work closely with my colleagues from other professions.

I also frequently get the opportunity to be based in client offices or at site, which is something traditional law firms rarely offer. This means I get involved with all aspects of construction projects and have lots of client interface.

What are the interesting aspects of your role?

Knowing the relevant law is one thing, but the key is applying it to real situations, providing practical, helpful advice to construction clients. A busy project manager or commercial director doesn't want an essay, but a strategy and practical steps for resolving their problem. I really enjoy being involved long term with a project; it's great to feel part of something being created.

What are the challenges?

Winning the trust of a cynical and stressed out project team can be a challenge. Often, the fact that you're involved is because something has gone wrong. Getting beyond any initial defensiveness can sometimes require a lot of patience, diplomacy and resilience.

What training and support has Systech given you?

Through Systech I have both attended and presented internal and external training seminars and have just finished Systech's management training course.

What words of advice would you offer someone thinking of joining Systech?

You can decide what you want your career to be. You're given a lot more autonomy than in other companies to decide matters such as location and specialisation; but I'd suggest you get the most out of Systech by having an open mind to the diverse and interesting project opportunities you'll be offered.

What social activities have you been involved in?

As well as the evening and daytime social events arranged by Systech at regular occasions

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throughout the year, seminars are usually followed by a further discussion (by no means limited to construction matters!) over drinks.

What is the culture like?

It's very open here. 'Management' are easy to find and talk to, suggestions are listened to and decisions are quickly implemented. Everyone has different areas of expertise and levels of experience, which makes it a supportive rather than competitive environment.

How has your career developed with Systech?

I started as a Legal Consultant, travelled the world and became a Senior Consultant, then an Associate Director and now a Director.

How has Systech helped you achieve your career goals?

I had always wanted to work overseas, and Systech provided scope for me to live and work in Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. Since returning to the UK I have also been involved in several projects throughout Europe and the Middle East. By going overseas I had the opportunity early in my career to be involved in major international projects with a much higher level of responsibility than would have been possible in the UK.

What makes Systech different from the competition?

The range of countries, industries and disciplines we cover. Systech was the first construction consultancy to be licensed by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority to incorporate solicitors' firm and become multi-disciplinary Alternative Business Structure.



This means we can offer a 'one stop shop' to our clients providing every professional service their projects need.

What has been your greatest achievement with Systech?

I was involved in a conciliation process on an international major high speed rail project. Our very successful result meant that the client changed their previously negative views on Alternative Dispute Resolution and was a significant influence in them giving Systech further opportunities to work with them on a global basis.

Tell us about a project where you have learnt a key lesson?

The projects on which I have worked have had chains and chains of emails between various parties. One valuable lesson I have learnt as a result of this is that to avoid problems and disputes, pick up the phone and talk.

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