

News Release

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Warrington Legal Eagle Flying High

Warrington legal executive Emma Hicks is flying high after qualifying as one of only 11 legal executive advocates in the North West – and the only criminal advocate practising in Cheshire.

Emma, who attended Great Sankey High School and Priestley College, joined the Warrington law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR) at the age of 19. Since then she has worked her way up from court clerk by successfully completing a series of extra courses and exams.

Now 34, she is able to fulfil many of the roles performed by a fully-qualified solicitor, including representing clients in adult and youth courts, conducting Crown Court bail applications and committal work for sentences and appeals.



Emma Hicks

To become a legal executive requires four years part-time study, followed by two years qualifying employment. Advocate status is then gained by preparing an extensive portfolio of work supplemented by an intensive six day course, including a mock trial.

Emma enjoys the daily challenge of dealing with all types of criminal cases from murder, rape, drugs and fraud, to more minor theft and assault offences.

“I decided I wanted to progress my career within the legal profession and take on work at a more demanding level. I am extremely grateful to the firm for encouraging and supporting me in this,” she said.

“The status of legal executives and the range of work they can do has increased dramatically in recent years. They are now even allowed to apply to be judges and

partners in law firms, which would have been unheard of a few years ago, so the sky's the limit."

Gary Heaven, FDR lead partner in criminal law, praised Emma's achievement and said: "Emma has worked extremely hard, firstly to qualify as a legal executive and now she has succeeded in securing advocate status. We are all very proud of her achievement. Emma joins an experienced team of criminal law advocates at our Warrington office and will enhance the complete service we offer to all our clients"

Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP, Warrington, offers a full range of legal services. For more information, contact 01925 230000. www.fdrllaw.co.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

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About Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR)

- FDR is a full service legal practice with five offices in Cheshire and Warrington
- 18 Partners
- Over 120 staff
- Top 15 practice in NW
- Top 200 practice in England & Wales
- Mortgage Strategy Awards 2009 & 2010 'Best Conveyancer' Runner Up
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate

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On behalf of Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP