

- David** 'I work in New York. I deal with clients from other countries who want to come and live here. I help them to get permission from the government to make their dream of living in the USA a reality.'
- Tom** 'I am with a law firm in Manchester. I am now in the second year of my training contract. At the moment I deal with clients who are buying or selling their house. It is my job to make sure everything is correct and that the sale is valid.'
- Jennifer** 'I work in a very exciting area of law here in Los Angeles. I meet a lot of writers and musicians and sometimes even people from movie studios! I protect their rights and make sure that no one can copy their work and make money from it without their permission.'
- Alistair** 'When I write the story of my life I will call my book, "Robbers, Murderers and Other Friends of Mine!" I work in Newcastle, which is in the north of England. I defend people who are in trouble with the police. They may even go to prison! It is my job to help them.'
- Sunita** 'I work in Sydney, Australia. I give advice to people who are unhappy living together and they want a divorce. Sometimes people argue about money or the care of the children. It's a difficult area of law and I feel very sympathetic towards my clients.'
- Cory** 'I work in Chicago. I'm quite famous on TV here in the USA. That's because Channel 10 show my advertisement five times every day! I ask people to call me if they were hurt or were in an accident because somebody else wasn't careful enough. If people are not careful, then I'm afraid they will have to pay damages!'
- Kayleigh** 'I work in Christchurch, New Zealand. Most of my clients have problems at work. I saw a lady this morning who is going to have a baby. When she told her boss that she was pregnant, he fired her from her job. That is not legal in New Zealand and I will help her to do something about it.'
- Michael** 'I work for a very big London law firm. Our clients are banks and other big businesses. Today I am working on a merger agreement, which means that two companies are joining together to become one. Yesterday I advised a new client who wants to start an internet company on the different ways he can do it.'
- Mary** 'I am based in Dublin, the capital city of Ireland. I see people or companies who want to make a legal agreement with another person or company. Today I am dealing with an agreement to deliver goods from Ireland to the USA. I have to check every word very carefully!'
- Polly** 'I work in a very old and interesting area of law. Today I met a client who is 70 years old and has no family. When she dies, she wants to put all of her money into a special fund. Her two friends will use this money to help pay for a training school for actors and actresses from her home city here in Liverpool. I explained to her how to do that and I will draft the necessary legal documents for her.'

Help desk

What do these words mean?

to deal with someone or something – to do business with someone or to take the correct action in an area of work.

legal – allowed by the law.

valid – legally correct and acceptable.

to draft a document – to write a document.

to have a right – (in intellectual property law) to have a legal interest in something; it is yours.

robber – a person who steals money or property while using or threatening to use violence.

a divorce – the legal ending of a marriage.

to merge – (in company law) when two companies join together to form one.

to be based somewhere – to be established somewhere as the main place where you work or live.

goods – things that are produced so that they can be sold.

fund – an amount of money that a person or organisation keeps to pay for something in particular.