

April 4th 2016

LWOW 2016 – bring it on!

Eversheds is the global law firm partner of LawWithoutWalls (LWOW), a collaborative academic programme that explores innovation in legal education and practice. Practising lawyers (Eversheds associates and clients) mentor teams of the top law and business students from around the world over four months to help them to develop legal tech start-ups to pitch to investors. The groups met in Madrid for KickOff on 16/17th January and will meet again in Miami in April. Saira Choonka, a senior associate in Eversheds' financial services disputes and investigations group, blogs about her LWOW experience.

I can't wait to be reunited properly with my team this month. What an eye-opening, whirlwind of an experience so far!

Exasperated by the prospect of being subjected to the same age old "think outside the box in order to innovate" with no additional tools, I was sceptical about the LWOW process. How wrong was I; LWOW is anything but the "same old thing".

I am one of three mentors in my team and whilst the students are benefitting from this process, I would be lying if I said I wasn't too. From day one, I have networked with new clients, exchanged ideas with entrepreneurs and overseas lawyers, and soaked up an array of tips and skills to support my development as a lawyer. Most importantly, I have been forced to throw away the usual protocol and initial legal focus I apply to problem solving and to STOP thinking like a typical lawyer. **THINK LIKE AN ENTREPRENEUR!**

LWOW emits so much positive energy and this is a learning experience like no other, in an enjoyable and unforgettable environment. I am overwhelmed on a weekly basis by the students' passion and commitment to developing their Project of Worth and I learn something new each week. The constant research and idea generation put forward by the students and discussed by the team during these meetings are always evolving and improving, and with a common goal in mind, we are very close to what looks and feels like a pragmatic, viable Project of Worth. I relish the last three and a half weeks of this process and wait in nervous, excited anticipation of all the innovative ideas and solutions to be presented at the Conposium!



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