

a day in the life of a senior associate

Working at a boutique law firm, like Tottle Partners, is a great opportunity to work in a small collaborative team with experienced senior lawyers who are highly specialised and recognised in their area of practice. If you are interested in working in a specific area of the law, then considering boutique law firms who have specialist teams in that area is a great place to start.

I am a Senior Associate working in the litigation and dispute resolution section of the building, engineering and construction practice at Tottle Partners and have worked at the firm for over 10 years. A typical work day for me may include tasks such as:

- meeting with clients to provide claims advice
- drafting Court or arbitration documents
- preparing a case for hearing
- attendance at hearings in Court or arbitration, including appearing as junior counsel with senior counsel
- a site visit to a project
- meeting with senior counsel to devise the strategy of a case
- travelling interstate or overseas to meet with clients, senior counsel and experts or to attend mediations and court hearings
- briefing experts (including interstate and international experts)
- representing clients in mediations (both court and privately held mediations)
- working on both domestic and international arbitrations.



Amanda Sinclair, Senior Associate

Having started my legal career at Tottle Partners, my experience is that working at a boutique law firm allows you to get involved in all facets of legal practice, from meeting with clients, experts and barristers to attending court and arbitration hearings, right from the outset of your employment.

That sort of early exposure is invaluable not only to developing your skills as a lawyer, but also in gaining a greater understanding of your clients, their needs and the industry in which they operate.

Another added benefit of working at a boutique law firm is being involved in large complex cases but working in small experienced teams which encourage a “hands-on” approach for every lawyer in the team. I have found that this approach strikes a desirable balance between having autonomy in carrying out your work while still receiving regular mentorship and guidance from the partner in charge of the case.