



Regina Addo

University degree: Master in Development Studies
Job: Africa-Asia Agricultural Enterprise Pro Bono Programme
Coordinator

Sidley Austin LPP

How did you start your career?

I began with several internships and worked in both public and private institutions in Ghana during and after my undergraduate studies. My admission into the Master in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute helped me to broaden my knowledge and advance my own career. The opportunity to access the Career Services webpage frequently enabled me to apply and secure a position in Sidley Austin LLP. Furthermore, I participated in training and counselling sessions organised by Career Services.

Why did you choose to study at the Graduate Institute?

The Graduate Institute is situated nearby several international organisations, including the United Nations. My dream was to be able to give back to society, and Geneva provided me with the ideal location to obtain the necessary skills to achieve this. Furthermore, it really meant a lot to me to discover that Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, was an alumnus of the Institute. It is, and always has been, my dream to be a great person who will through several means help transform and improve other people's lives. I knew that the courses offered at the Graduate Institute would help equip me with the necessary skills and also provide me with excellent opportunities to achieve my goal.

Why did you choose a career at Sidley Austin LPP?

As it is my ultimate goal and passion to give back to society, and particularly to contribute to any process that will create opportunities for the under-served in Africa and elsewhere, working in Sidley Austin offered me a great opportunity to achieve this. As a Coordinator, I strive to identify and provide legal services to enterprises which have a socio-economic impact on the lives of rural communities in developing countries, notably in Africa. It was the realisation that I would be improving the lives of rural populations that made we want to join my team.

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In your opinion, what are the qualities necessary for a successful career at Sidley Austin LPP?

I believe that what accounts for a successful career is primarily being passionate about the work you do. It also takes confidence, perseverance, hard work and determination to be able to have a successful career. There is no smooth way to achieving success than embracing these tools. You certainly may be down a few times, but a successful person is one who arises and moves forward anytime they fall.

Did the Graduate Institute prepare you well?

The Graduate Institute has really provided me with essential tools for my career advancement. Coming from Ghana and being my first visit in Europe, the Institute was an ideal place to meet people from diverse backgrounds and learn from different courses. Studying international development, and taking courses in agriculture policies, international law and qualitative methods, just to mention a few, provided me with a firm foundation for my current work.

What advantage did the Institute give you from an intellectual point of view?

The extensive and practical work, through research proposals, writing, and presentations has helped me to adopt a critical and analytical mind-set. More precisely, my Applied Research Seminar in Development and Sustainability offered me an opportunity to work alongside policy-oriented institutions.

How did you benefit from your position at Sidley Austin LPP?

The main benefit of my position is to be able to work within a team that strives to address societal needs. I get the opportunity to share ideas and learn from people. More importantly, I am able to enrich my career by work closely with experienced staff and senior colleagues. I have had the opportunity to provide gateways to businesses in the developing world by helping them expand and better operate their businesses better. It has also helped me to relate more effectively with various clients from different backgrounds, improve my writing and communication skills and identify new skills which would be useful in my future endeavours.