



Uma Akther

2013 Eagle at Freshfields

Growing up in East London I was always on the receiving end of community projects and mentoring programmes at school. At the age of 16 I became very involved in Tower Hamlets Council-led projects and sat on several youth boards. I was driven, vocal and eventually my involvement led me to become Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets in 2009. I knew by then I loved advocating on behalf of others and wanted to do my bit for society.

I went onto study law at university and alongside my studies I decided to join the Metropolitan Police as a Special Constable and did so for just under two years. I quickly realised that politics and policing was not for me (!) and through my legal studies I was certain I wanted to be a lawyer.

Applying for training contracts and receiving automated rejections really threw me. I decided to join the Freshfields CSR team in the hope that I would eventually secure a training contract with them. At the time I knew very little about the world of CSR in the corporate context but, actually, it was everything I felt passionate about, I decided to stick to CSR a 'little' longer and have not looked back since!