



# **Volunteer Profiles**



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-ahyow-37202b190/>

# Mike Ahyow

Commercial Lawyer and Senior Associate,  
Osborne Clarke  
MPharm Pharmacy, 2005

## About me

Mike studied Pharmacy Bath between 2001 and 2002. He subsequently completed his pre-registration training at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, becoming a registered pharmacist in 2005.

In 2008, Mike chose to retrain as lawyer. He began his legal career working for international law firm Taylor Wessing in London. Since then, he has spent the last 9 years at Osborne Clarke; another major international firm. He acts primarily for clients in the digital, online, media and technology sectors.

## Topic areas I can offer support and guidance

- Career paths / unconventional routes into law; changing careers to become a lawyer
- Insights into what it's like to work as a lawyer; what lawyers do; the importance of commercial awareness and sector knowledge
- How to go about obtaining a training contract with a major law firm
- Reasons for choosing law; whether or not law is the right career for you

## Something I know now that I wish I had known at the beginning of my career

1. What lawyers and law firms do: students and graduates often show interest in law as a career and are aware that it is considered to be an interesting and rewarding job. However, it can be difficult for them to get a clear picture of what law firms and lawyers actually do on a day-to-day basis.
2. Routes into law. In particular the process and tips for a training contract with a major law firm.
3. What behaviours and traits you need to work on to be a successful lawyer. No one has it all at the start. However, if you are self-aware, it's not that hard to address any gaps.

## How would this advice have helped me?

It would have given me more confidence to go for it, switch careers, and become a lawyer.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rafaellaantoniou/>

# Rafaella Antoniou

Technology Transformation Consultant,  
Deloitte Digital

MEng Mechanical Engineering with Manufacturing &  
Management

PhD Mechanical Engineering

## About me

I'm a Product Owner/Business Analyst in technology consulting (primarily software development). I'm passionate about helping clients develop amazing solutions to tricky problems, through great user experiences.

## Topic areas I can offer support and guidance

- Considering whether to do a PhD
- Careers in consulting, software development & tech
- Product mindset, business analysis and project management

## Something I know now that I wish I had known at the beginning of my career

If you're not sure what to do after university, this is normal – don't panic. Yes, do your research and try to find out your interests, but remember that your first job doesn't have to be your forever job. It's ok to change gears and directions in your career, and it's ok to do something different than what you studied at university.

## How would this advice have helped me?

It would have saved me a lot of worrying and stress!



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/louis-bollard/>

# Louis Bollard

Founder, Elevate Pitch Decks

BSc Business Administration, 2017

MBA Business Administration, 2021

## About me

A serial entrepreneur with a natural flair for startups and enterprise, Louis is the sole founder of Elevate Pitch Decks, a start-up consultancy that's helped over 180 entrepreneurs shape, pitch and elevate their start-ups. With a friendly and personable style, he works closely with founders to help to identify market opportunities, communicate selling points and evaluate the business model.

Prior to this, Louis had started, and continues to oversee two peer-to-peer hosting communities: one for sports fans ([www.hostafan.co](http://www.hostafan.co)) and one for Christians ([www.hostachristian.com](http://www.hostachristian.com)) whilst completing his MBA.

In between his undergraduate and MBA courses, Louis was headhunted to Co-Found a natural healthy protein brand in London. Involved with everything from onsite production to branding, marketing and sales, he helped to propel the business from scratch into being stocked at a national retailer, Holland & Barrett.

Alongside his undergraduate course, Louis successfully founded a start-up, buying and selling thousands of products and personally selling them to customers, particularly during the Bath Christmas markets.

## Topic areas I can offer support and guidance

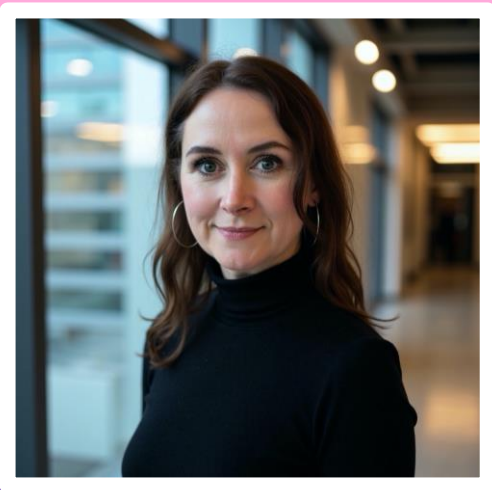
- Start-ups
- Fundraising
- Business Model
- Pitch Decks

## Something I know now that I wish I had known at the beginning of my career

Nothing! That's the beauty of the learning journey and being young. Your career would be boring and pointless if you knew everything you know today when you started. That's the best way of learning.

## How would this advice have helped me?

See above.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-jellis-7337956>

# Kathryn Jellis

Managing Director, Benicate Ltd  
BSc Mathematics & Computing, 1998  
MPhil Computer Language & Speech Processing

## About me

Kathryn completed a degree in Mathematics & Computing at the University of Bath, with a year in industry working for PwC, followed by a Masters in Artificial Intelligence at Cambridge University.

After deciding she enjoyed using her communication skills more than teaching machines to communicate, she embarked on a successful career in public relations, where she won awards for changing employers' attitudes to issues ranging from flexible working to mental health. She now runs her own agency and combines writing press articles and research reports with raising her young family.

## Topic areas I can offer support and guidance

- Working in public relations, media relations, journalism, communications
- Setting up your own business
- Writing for a living
- Combining analytical and communication skills
- Using a science degree to enter a creative industry
- Achieving a good work-life balance

## Something I know now that I wish I had known at the beginning of my career

That there are a lot more potential careers and companies than you come across at careers fairs and milk rounds. Including lots more opportunities to use a Maths degree than just becoming an accountant, investment banker, management consultant or teacher.

## How would this advice have helped me?

I would have spent more time researching alternative Maths careers, such as forensic science or actuarial work, and maybe found a career combining my analytical and writing abilities sooner. I perhaps discarded some valuable academic qualifications before I should have.

However, that also led to a well-paid, varied, and interesting career that empowered me to work for myself so I could be both a parent and professional, at a time when others were having to choose one over the other.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/neil-langmead-7296b23>

# Neil Langmead

Senior Lecturer (Enterprise), Computer Science

BSc Mathematics, 1998

MSc Mathematics

## About me

I am a software engineer by training, with interests in functional safety compliance (medical, automotive) and cyber security. I am married to Abby, also a Bath graduate, and father of 2 boys, Isaac and Owen. I enjoy helping people with spin outs and encouraging them to take their own entrepreneurial journey. I have been fortunate to be co-founder of startups in Germany, Switzerland, Cyprus, China and the US, as well as here at home in the UK.

## Topic areas I can offer support and guidance

- Entrepreneurship
- Computer science
- Software safety
- Spin outs
- Getting started

## Something I know now that I wish I had known at the beginning of my career

I started a business at 27. Fear held me back from starting earlier!

## How would this advice have helped me?

Start the entrepreneurial journey as soon as possible!

If you need this information in an alternative format, such as in large print or with a coloured background, please contact:

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