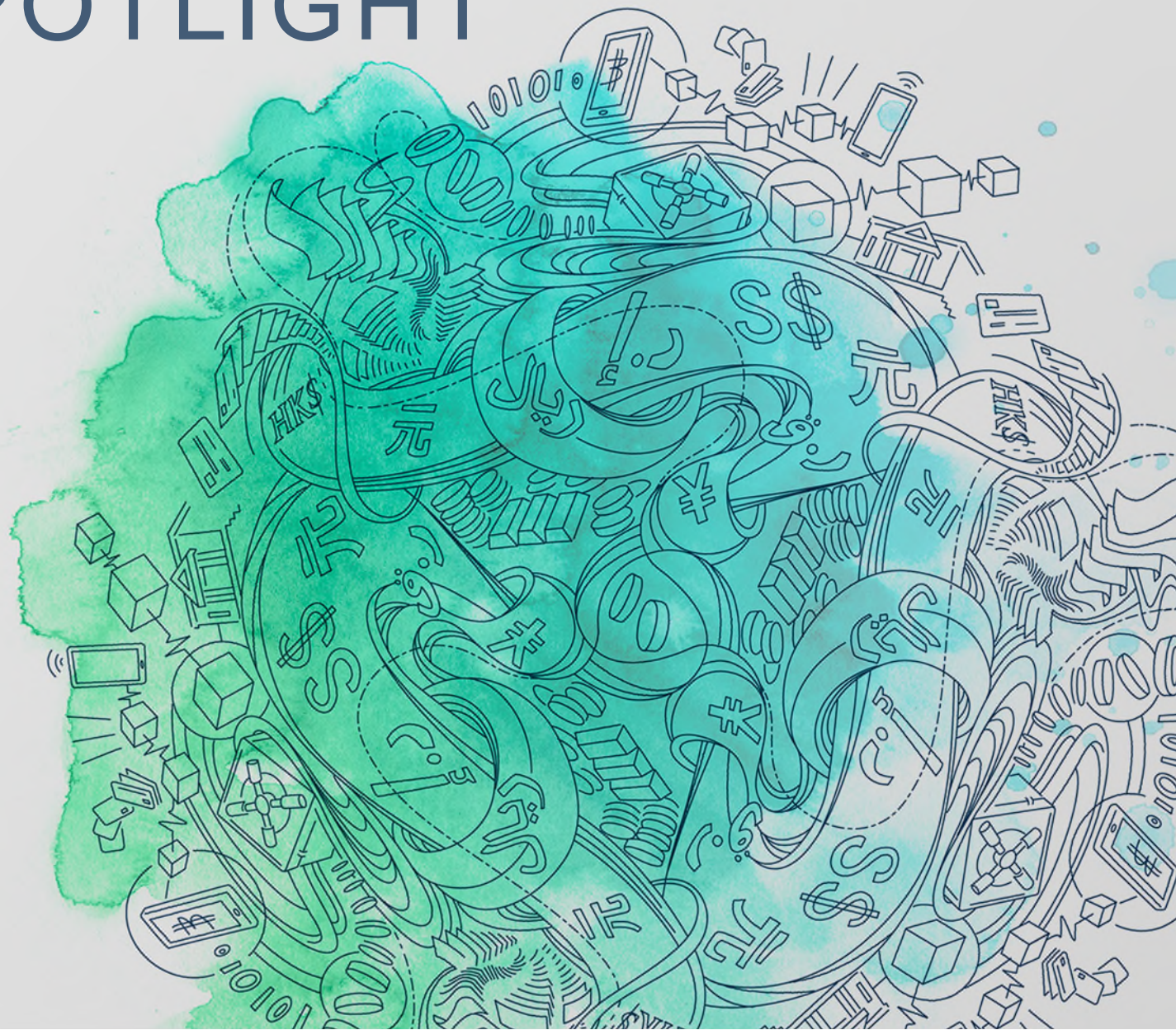


ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Atkinson

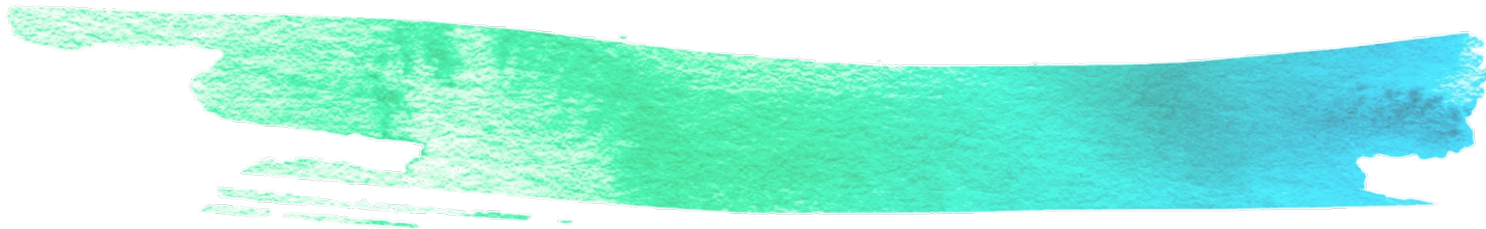


TRANSCRIPT

SARAH ATKINSON

It's a great way of just developing another network because that is something you can never have too bigger network.

Sarah Atkinson – I am in the real estate team so what we lovingly call Transaction Real Estate at AG. I came back to the team about a year ago it was actually almost exactly a year ago after a 13 year gap. The reason for coming back to AG really there were a few key things, one was that it was the one firm that I had worked for a left and really hugely regretted leaving and felt like I kind of had unfinished business with it and I left on really good terms. There were lots of people who actually were in the Leeds office when I was there who are still there that just kind of moved up the ranks. It felt a little bit like coming back here felt a bit like coming home because I sort of felt like I already had that network set up and I knew people and they knew me and it just made it so much easier and once I did actually make the decision it took me about 3 years of prevaricating to make the decision but I did do it and yes honestly never looked back really just its been absolutely fantastic coming back to what is essentially the same firm in terms of culture and values. Its actually fantastic to work for a firm that has that ambition and that hunger for growth because nobody wants to just stand still really because if you stand still you end up going backwards so its just really nice to have that drive to do bigger things and do bigger deals and really build the practice because that's what I personally enjoy doing I love going out and meeting people and talking to them and finding out what makes them tick, finding out what makes their businesses tick and working out how we can help them so my parents were obsessive DIYers, my dad was a civil engineer, my mum worked for Persimmon for 20 years and had been an estate agent before that so I had this connection to property. We had always been very involved in property and it sort of felt like it made something. My dad wanted me to be a civil engineer but I just... that didn't appeal at all, I didn't fancy it. I didn't fancy being an estate agent and the next obvious thing to do in property was law so I did my conversion on the basis that I kind of knew that I wanted to go into property law, didn't get the memo clearly about how difficult training contracts are to get, blindly just applied for two, one of which I went to the interview, realised that it absolutely wasn't the right firm for me and ended up cutting the interview short by saying actually I don't think I want to work for you sorry for wasting your time and the other one I got. Useful to have the benefit of people's experience especially when they're in a position where they're offering you that freely as opposed to on an exit interview or you know something more formal than that. I think it's a really good way of getting a real sounding of how people feel about the firm and if there are things that could be improved upon if there are things that we're doing really well and it's a case of whatever you do don't ever change that. You know it's a great way of getting that feedback and it's a great way of just developing another network as lets face it you can never have too bigger network.





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