

Appendix 1 – Darren Thompson Biography

Executive Summary

Darren is a Solicitor (partner) at US headquartered international law firm. Darren wins and manages high value complex multiparty litigation and commercial projects within small and large teams. Darren's role also includes analysing accounts and sitting on the firm's financial planning and strategy steering committee.

Darren identifies himself as a first generation African-Caribbean, born in the City of London, and growing up in 1980s Tottenham. Darren has lived in Hackney since 2005.

Darren has been mentoring young people for the last 22 years in a large multi-cultural city church as a way of encouraging young people to achieve all that they can. Darren places great importance in changing the mindset of and outlook for disaffected and disenfranchised young people as a "long game". He considers the need to challenge those who are very able academically and noted that as a young man, he benefitted from a support structure around him that promoted high standards of academic achievement.

Darren considers that his legal professional background lends itself well to the governance and finance functions of a Governor which is complimented well by a strong passion and experience in supporting young people.

Relevant Experience

Church Board

January 2008 – January 2012:

Part of group responsible for financial and disciplinary accountability of large city church as well as organising transparent fundraising for relief projects in the UK and abroad.

Youth mentor

September 1997 to date

Part of team supporting teenagers and those in their early twenties through the early years of adulthood and the growing pains that go with that from academic, career and business pursuits to matters of the heart, family issues, emotional health and legal issues.

Solicitor

2003 – current

Entire professional career working for the insurance industry in the City of London.