



**Vicki Dick-Cleland**

## ***Vicki's taste of the Big Apple***

***Being part of PwC's global network means having access to over 157 different countries around the world and, last summer, I was fortunate enough to use this network and spend four months on secondment in New York City.***

I've worked in Assurance in Guernsey for four years; however, I wanted to spend some time off-island; to challenge myself and learn some new skills. The timescale from accepting the secondment, going through the visa process and arriving in Manhattan took about three weeks, which is a testament to how quickly things can move at PwC.

I was seconded into the PwC US Forensics department and worked as a contractor for a large multinational bank undertaking transaction monitoring services. My job involved reviewing banking transactions and checking that these transactions didn't involve any money laundering, suspicious activity or a breach to US sanctions. With a number of large banks being fined millions of dollars for breaching sanctions and having weak anti-money laundering controls, this is an extremely topical issue in the USA at the moment.

The remediation project team I was part of consisted of one other Channel-Islander, seven from PwC UK, as well as colleagues from Romania, Poland, Czech Republic and the USA. What started as a brilliant "networking" opportunity was, in reality, the chance to share some once in a lifetime experiences with colleagues that I now consider to be close friends.

We lived in apartments on 34th and Madison, which is two blocks from the Empire State building. My commute was a 15-minute walk into the office, which is ironically shorter than my commute back in Guernsey.

I adopted the ethos that I needed to make the most of the opportunity and relished my precious time in the city that never sleeps. Consequently, I had an incredible summer, from watching the 4<sup>th</sup> July fireworks, spending days in Central Park, Broadway shows, kayaking on the Hudson River, going for runs along the West side, the US open tennis final, cycling along Park Avenue, to various music gigs (one highlight of which was Jay-Z performing Empire State of Mind in Central Park and a surprise guest appearance from Beyoncé). We also managed a team trip to Washington DC, as well as weekends in Texas, Niagara Falls, Boston and Orlando.

My experience shows how easy it is to take advantage of PwC being a global business, a business that means you can live and work almost anywhere and also that these opportunities are open to people based in the Channel Islands; whether for the long-term, a two-year secondment or, as in my case, an unforgettable summer in New York City. The choice is yours...

