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Q&A with Kate Anderson

Kate Anderson is a chartered legal executive with over seven years' experience of private client law. She joined Meridian in June 2021.

Who, or what, inspired your career in law?

Growing up, I did not have any dreams of pursuing a specific career. I selected the topics I enjoyed, and these eventually led me to a law conversion course at university. I found it rewarding working with individuals, particularly in matters related to wills, trusts and tax, and for this reason decided to follow the private client route and qualify in this area.

What do you find are the most challenging aspects of your role?

A time-consuming and thereby challenging part of my role is contacting and co-ordinating with government organisations. Many public-sector bodies are facing pressures, not least from the effects of COVID-19, which has had a knock-on effect on the service they provide. For example, we are finding it more complex to process lasting powers of attorney with the Office of the Public Guardian, applications to the probate registry and inheritance tax paperwork with HMRC. Maintaining a high level of service for clients can be a challenge when faced with delays out of your control, which can also lead to frustrations all around.

Whilst working from home has its benefits - and for me it enables focused time for concentration - it can sometimes be challenging not having a colleague sat immediately next to you to bounce ideas off! With our hybrid way of working, I've now learnt to adapt the way I work, managing my time differently to make best use of the time I'm in the office and the time I'm at home. The new balance is now a good fit for me.

What has been your career highlight so far?

So far, my career highlight has been successfully completing my qualification to become a chartered legal executive. I've been pleased with my professional development since joining Meridian last year; colleagues have been welcoming and supportive, clients have shared their appreciation of my work, my matters are interesting and challenging and I find that I'm learning something new every day which is motivating and exciting for the future.

How do you 'switch off' from the day job?

In my spare time I run and compete in athletics for Coventry Godiva Harriers. Running, whilst hard work, allows me to clear my mind and is great for mental resilience. I have a solid training structure in place and this gives me the ideal work-life balance. This summer looks set to be busy as I take on a new and exciting role as team manager for the club.

If you could choose anyone, who would be your mentor(s)?

As a lover of sport, many accomplished sporting individuals come to mind. However, Sir Chris Hoy's mindset and personal philosophy around training stand out for me. He argues that it was not talent that helped him win six Olympic Gold medals in track cycling, but a strong work ethic and a commitment to achieving his goals.

A physics teacher of mine was also a great mentor and helped me to develop a unique and methodical approach to problem-solving that I continue to use today!

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