

GREY MATTERS

Sue Russell

Proud / age

nd of a long day's baby-foot up, switch on the other than *Paw Patrol* just chill out for an hour batteries.

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and no amount of make it otherwise. I 50s to the best of my ew wrinkles and o prove it. ead on 60-some- quite proud of that

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best old age I programme title gracefully / widdly ly' I would have the box."

WOW
■ My Career: Fiona Foley, Managing Partner, Foley Turnbull Solicitors

No two days are ever the same

Name: Fiona Foley

Age: 44

Lives: I live in Carrigrohane, Cork with my husband and three little girls.

Job Title: Managing Partner, Foley Turnbull Solicitors

Salary Bracket: €80,000-plus

Education Background: BCL, UCC, Law Society of Ireland and Dip. Tax

Hobbies: I have a very busy personal and social life but also enjoy all types of exercise which I believe is truly beneficial.

Describe your job in five words: Challenging, rewarding, busy, stressful and varied.

Describe yourself in five words: Honest, direct, hard-working, fun and kind.

Personality needed for this kind of work: Confident, direct, clear and a huge work ethic.

How long are you doing this job? 24 years.

How did you get this job? I started my apprenticeship with Donegans on the South Mall in 1991.

I worked as a solicitor with Barry Turnbull & Co. for three years before I left and started out on my own in March, 1999.

I opened my first office over a shop with one part-time secretary, who still works with me today!

The practice grew fairly quickly, first acquiring No. 2 and then No. 3 Station Road in Rillincollig.

In 2007, we moved to larger and modern new office premises in Barrack Square, Ballycollig, where we continue to operate from today.

In December 2015, we merged with Barry Turnbull & Co, which is poignant given that this was where I began my legal career. We now have six, soon to be seven, solicitors with an overall staff of 17.

Do you need any particular qualifications or experience? I suppose you need to be a solicitor!

Describe a day at work: No two days are the same. We start at 9am and seem to work ourselves up as the day goes on. I try to deal with urgent and pressing matters in the morning.

I schedule most of my appointments in the afternoon. Once the appointments start, the pace picks up and the office is very busy. I could very often have up to ten appointments a day.

In an average week, I attend court two to three times. It is hard to make up the time when I return.

There is a huge team spirit in the office and we all work very hard. We are unlikely to finish any day before 7pm and regularly work until 8pm and beyond.

How many hours do you work a week? Typically, I work from 9am to 8pm during the week. I also work for a few hours most weekends.

It is very hard to get thinking time during the week and working at the weekend generally makes the following week more manageable.

I try to take at least one day off to spend with my family and friends.

What do you wear to work: Not necessarily formal attire but I do make an effort and try to dress smartly.

Is your industry male or female dominated: Neither, although there is a growth toward female solicitors.

Does this affect you in any particular way? No.

Is your job stressful? Yes. On a scale of 1-10 it is most definitely a 10.

Do you work with others or on your own? I work with others. One of the best aspects of my job is that I have hugely dedicated people working with me for a very long time, most of whom I would regard as friends.

When do you plan to retire or give up



Fiona Foley, Managing Partner, Foley Turnbull Solicitors.

working? Never.

Best bits: This job is highly rewarding. I feel privileged to be in a position to help people when they are vulnerable, and often going through the most difficult times in their lives, and to be able to make a difference.

Worst bits: It is a very stressful job and working under time pressure and to deadlines

can be difficult.

Advice to those who want your job: It is a full time commitment and requires absolute dedication. You cannot go into it half-heartedly.

Any other comments: Work is a huge part of our life so it is really important to do something that we love.

Learn

A workshop how to v high heel place this v part Lifelong Festival, Elaine D

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