

Nicky Andrews

How did you get started out in your career?

The biggest step in my career was obviously leaving my homeland of Tasmania and coming to the mainland, particularly to Sydney which was a very big step, a very exciting step. I went to University in Hobart at the University of Tasmania. People often ask me which University in Tasmania did you go to and I explain that I went to the one and only being the University of Tasmania. I then moved up to Sydney and I took a job at Clayton Utz and went to College of Law and spent 4½ years at Clayton Utz before I moved across to Allens and I've now been at Allens for 7 maybe nearly 8 years. And when I came across to Allens I was a Senior Associate and they just haven't been able to get rid of me ever since.

How do you define success and being successful?

If you had asked me how I would define success, maybe five definitely 10 years ago I would have tried to look at people who I think had really excelled in their careers or their chosen field, now maybe I am a little bit older and wiser, I look at success a little bit differently and there is probably two elements that I think of when I think of success. I think of people who have just truly realised their potential, so have become the best they could possibly be in their chosen field. And I also think there is a second element to it and that is having I think the perspective to realise that they have done that and to be happy with what they have got, that is what I really think of as being success now.

Did you or do you have mentors?

I have had a lot of mentors. I have had a lot of mentors who I would now call really good friends, who have helped me in my career and through my life generally and have helped I guess shape me in terms of the person I have turned out being, particularly in my career though. Most of my mentors have been blokes. I tend to enjoy spending time with men and they have given me some great advice throughout my career and so I have had lots of mentors to thank.

How do you balance work and life?

I think the best advice I would give to anyone who was really trying to balance a demanding career, which people at Allens have, with the rest of your life, is never to lose your sense of humour and do not take yourself too seriously. So I think the way I have been able to strike the balance and

sometimes I do not think I strike it very well and it changes from day to day, and you have got me on a good day, I would say definitely do not take yourself too seriously and when you are not in the office enjoy not being in the office and when you are in the office enjoy being in the office. I think that certainly for me, having my son and coming back to work has made me enjoy work more because I think the time I spend at home really enhances the time I spend at work because they're so different, but at the same time I appreciate more the time I'm in the office now than I did previously, but I also appreciate the time I'm at home more. So there's that real balance achieved by virtue of the fact that they are so different, albeit sometimes competing.

What has worked for you and good advice for someone coming up in their career?

It probably touches on the point I was talking about earlier, in that I think in moving through your career, particularly a career as a lawyer as a professional, again it is do not take yourself too seriously, maintain your sense of humour and always be true to who you are, do not try and be like someone else. It is too difficult to try and imitate someone else's behaviour or to look at them and think wow if I could be like them then I will be successful too. Everyone does things in different ways and the moment you can realise that the best way for you to do it, is to do it your way - I think you are going to be more successful. Another bit of advice I'd give someone in coming through their career is to remember that people are just people, so your clients are just normal people. They just go home and they have to cook dinner like you and they have to put their kids to bed like you and they have to deal with all the same boring domestic chores that you have to deal with. I think often particularly when you're younger, it's very much driven into us that we have to look after the client and the client is king and all of that sort of thing and we almost forget that they're just normal people. So I think it's always good to remind ourselves of that and that you know if you can't do something within the deadline, there's nothing wrong with saying look I've actually got to be somewhere else at that time, would it be okay if I got that to you tomorrow morning. The worst thing they can say is 'no I need it tonight', but I think sometimes, particularly in the early stages of our careers, we're a little bit tentative and scared to test the boundaries and we forget that our clients are just people like us.

Apart from the law, what would your dream career be?

Lead Singer of a Rock n Roll Band, I mean it does not really get better than that. That would definitely be my dream career.

Who is a women you find inspirational? Why?

I find lots of women inspirational and lots of people say their mum and I do find my mum very inspirational. She will be happy that I said that. But again it is hard to , I mean there are so many people that you can look at and regard them as inspirational, but that is probably just because you know they are in the paper or you hear a lot about them. But you know, women you meet day to day are pretty inspirational. There are a lot of women in our firm who are really inspirational, who have to balance so many different things in order to keep all the balls in the air and so it is really hard to pick any particular woman. I think I have been quite blessed in that I get to meet women regularly who are very inspirational in their own right.