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24 MAY 2019

A day in the life of ... Emine Mehmet



Emine Mehmet
Director and Solicitor



Emine receiving her award for Family Law Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year 2016

What is your position and what do you do on a day-to-day basis?

I am a childcare director/solicitor at [Duncan Lewis](#). No two days are the same; I can be at court, visiting a child, in the office dealing with my files or carrying out my supervisory role in respect of my team. I am also head of pro bono so there may be pro bono meetings to attend or work to do for the committee.

How long have you been in this role and what brought you here?

I have been in this role for 9 years now. My previous firm closed down due to a decline in fees in the main as a result of the criminal legal aid cuts, and I was lucky enough to secure this role very quickly.

Any memorable stories from your career so far?

Probably too many to recount but any worth telling would be embarrassing to someone, so I will keep them to myself...

What is the best and worst part of the day for you?

The best part of my day is a day at court that ends well for a child, the worst part is the huge amounts of admin I often have.

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Doing childcare work itself keeps me motivated as in the main I act for children, and securing their best interests is motivation enough.

Tea or coffee?

One (very, very strong) cup of coffee in the morning.

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What would you say to anyone thinking of a career in your field?

I would say be sure it is for you, as the hours are long at times and you have to have a love for the job not to resent that. However, if you have that love then it is incredibly rewarding, and I personally wouldn't want to do anything else.

What song do you listen to the most?

I love music and my taste in it is very varied, so I don't think I listen to one song the most. One day it can be R&B, the next [Kenny G](#) and the one after that [Adele!](#)

Who inspires you within the world of family law?

I can honestly say it is simply other child care lawyers who work tirelessly to protect children every day with a real passion for what they do.

How do you enjoy your time outside of work?

I enjoy just seeing friends and family and travelling whenever and wherever I can!

What book would you recommend to others?

[The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini](#) – one of my all-time favourite novels.

What would be your alternate career?

Probably something completely different, like an interior designer.

If you could change one thing about the family justice system what would it be and why?

I would change the family legal aid system to ensure that access to justice is available to the most vulnerable more freely.

The Family Law Awards 2019 are now open. Submit your entry before midnight on Friday 7 June at www.familylawawards.co.uk

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Lucy Hoare is a solicitor at Hecht Montgomery. She was named Family Law Young Solicit...

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