

Career Change

I had worked in banking for 11 years straight from school at 16 before leaving to have my first child. I was lucky enough to be able to be a full-time mum to my 3 children for the next 17 years.

Things had changed so much in banking, I decided that this time round it was not for me.

At that time my husband saw an advert in our local paper for an “experienced conveyancing secretary” in the solicitors’ office in the village where we lived. My conveyancing knowledge was limited – only what I had learned in my in my banking job from a financial perspective. As my husband pointed out, I had never let not having the “right experience” stop me before. I applied, was successful and in September 2007 started work part-time – I started at the bottom and worked my way up.

I worked for a conveyancing solicitor, Linda, who had specialised in conveyancing for 30 years. By 2010 I was responsible for sale and purchase files once they were ready for completion onwards. By 2012 I was dealing with basic sale and purchase cases from start to finish, with Linda checking my work before signing them off– all the time I was learning from her.

“ I was working full-time, looking after 3 teenage children and a home. Time management was paramount. I set targets from day one

and, more importantly, stuck to them ”

By January 2014, although I did not know it, she was actively leading me down the road to qualifying, having already spoken to the firm’s partners about them supporting me through the CLC course. On the 24th July 2014 I began my studies and down-loaded my first course – this was a month before my 50th birthday. I did wonder why on earth I was commencing studying at my age!

I initially set out when exams could be and when the submission deadlines were for assignments. I then decided which subjects I felt I could double-up on and came up with a Study Schedule which would see me do my final exam in June 2016 – 23 months after commencing the course.

“ I realised how much I had achieved at the age of 52, proving you are never too old to go back to education. I was proud of myself and nobody could take what I had achieved away from me ”



This was a challenging target, but I was focused and had the full support of my family, and of course, Linda.

Six months into my studying, Linda, became ill. More pressure was put on me at work, but I kept to my Study Schedule even when the Practice Manager told me to slow down. But I had decided at the beginning that I would try to complete the course in 23 months and I wanted to keep to it – my stubborn streak came through!

If I hadn’t worked so hard Linda wouldn’t have known I had achieved my and, indeed, her goal as she sadly passed-away at Christmas 2016, having been seriously ill for the last 3 months of her life. She was so proud when I got my final exam result in August 2016 (just 3 days after my 52nd birthday) and my qualifying Licence in September 2016 – seeing her face when I told her I had qualified was worth every hour of study.

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