

Antonious Abdelshahied – Michael Sing Lawyers



Current employment and position:

A family lawyer at Michael Sing Lawyers.

First job in the legal profession:

I previously worked at Journey Family Lawyers (March 2007 – May 2011). I started as a lawyer and became an associate of the firm within my first year of employment.

Career path to where you are now:

I studied for my Bachelor of Laws degree at James Cook University in Townsville, transferring to Queensland University of Technology and graduating in 2005. I then completed my Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice at QUT by the end of 2005.

I began work in Rockhampton in March 2007, where I completed the Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course in 2008. I moved to the Gold Coast to run a family law boutique firm until May 2011 when I joined Michael Sing Lawyers

I have a special interest in complex parenting and property settlement disputes, domestic violence representation and negotiating and drafting financial agreements.

What motivated you to practise law:

I was motivated by the variety of work, sense of fulfilment, advancement options, knowledge of the law in day-to-day transactions, career growth and security, mobility, networking opportunities and the ability to run a business.

Most memorable moment in the law:

My first court appearance. I remember walking to the bar table dressed in my suit – my client was not present – and the Federal Magistrate mistook me for the client and asked “if I was waiting for my legal representative”. I respectfully replied that “I was the legal representative”.

Most useful piece of advice you’ve received:

To be proactive, not reactive.

How has the profession changed since your admission:

Family law has changed considerably since I was admitted in 2005. One major change is the ability to now electronically file documents via the Commonwealth Courts Portal. Other changes are the use of computers in courtrooms and the way high-volume evidence is presented to judges. Generally, the courts have now become very dependent on electronic communication. This has also enabled service to international clientele.

What state is your work/life balance in:

At the moment it’s good. Although I practice in family law, which is often perceived as an emotional area of law, I have been able to successfully separate the pressures of work and maintain a good work/life balance.

How do you unwind:

Most of the time, I spend my weekends relaxing with my wife, playing with our little puppy and watching DVDs. I love watching thrillers. We are also lucky enough that most of our friends share the same passion, so we can catch up for DVD marathons and going out for dinner or coffee.

When was your last holiday, and what did you do:

My honeymoon. I was married on 10/10/10. My wife and I went to Borocay – an island off the Philippines. It was beautiful, very relaxing and picture perfect. We can’t wait to go back.

And finally:

I invest in overseas property and enjoy trading on the stock market. I can speak fluent Arabic and we are expecting our first child in December 2011.

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