

LIFESTYLE

'My law reform bill in House of Lords was memorable'

The Profile:
Steve Kirwan

Managing director and head of corporate and litigation services at Nowell Meller Solicitors

AGE: 56

HOME: Fugeley

FAMILY: Long-term partner and cat

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?
Wallasey, on the Wirral.

WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD LIKE? Happy and supportive family, moved around quite a lot so several changes of school, worked hard at school, lots of homework.

TELL US A CHILDHOOD MEMORY. Being given an ice-cold bottle of milk to drink at school.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL? I wanted to be a scientist (ideally an environmental scientist).

HOW DID YOUR LIFE AND CAREER PROGRESS?

I completed a degree in Chemistry at Oxford and spent a year in research before a change of direction. I wanted to work more with people, and so trained and qualified as a solicitor, joined high street practice in Coventry dealing with all types of work, over time specialised in family law and litigation and elected to serve on the National Committee of Resolution (the Solicitors' Family Law Association). I was involved in a number of other committees and initiatives - including law reform and legal aid (some radio and TV work, delivered some training and contributed to some publications), with plenty of advocacy experience before another change of direction, I moved into commercial/corporate and civil litigation work three years ago building on my previous experience. Now I'm developing case-load in those areas.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The challenge presented by the variety of work and the relationships built up with clients and other colleagues.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Spare time? At present working on our house and

garden, and falling asleep in front of the TV.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE?

Other than leading my company out of a very difficult financial position, contributing to the drafting of and sponsoring a law reform Bill in the House of Lords and sitting in the Chamber while this was being debated would be a memorable experience...

WHAT IS THE ONE MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE AND WORK BY?

Never doubt that you can achieve your goals, no matter how lofty they may be and no matter how many critics and naysayers you may have. But at the same time, always take honest stock of your current situation (the Stockdale Principle).

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE AMBITIONS?

To ensure that my company is secure for the future and to leave a legacy. To build my reputation as a specialist in my chosen areas of work. To enjoy the remaining years of work. To improve my work-life balance. To keep fit and healthy and to read more.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS? No

STEVE'S FAVOURITES

Car - I'm not really interested in cars. Anything solid and reliable. My last two cars have been Hondas

Music - Beethoven Symphony No 9 (Gloria).

Hobbies - Gardening, DIY, woodwork, walking, travel, cooking, cinema, reading

Holiday - Tibet

Food and drink - A traditional roast dinner and a nice glass of good red wine

Book - Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings

Something you love - A beautiful spring morning

Something you hate - Being cold and wet

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