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YLC Brief Editor

A Young Lawyer and a Mum

When is the right time to start a family? This is a question often faced by young lawyers and something I myself considered. As a lawyer, family life often gets put on the back burner. There's plenty of time for raising a family; you need to establish yourself in your career first. Well, that's the view plenty of young lawyers have. It may be the norm to wait until later in life to start a family until you have begun in your chosen career and made a name for yourself. I've never been one to conform to what may be regarded as 'normal'. Once I have my mind set on something, I strive to achieve it and usually do.

After spending five years at university to study law with the aim of going to the Bar within five years of practice, most people would not want to start a family, yet I wanted to.

A year after trying and I was pregnant. A little naively, I thought that life would not change that much having a baby early in my career and that I would be able to swiftly get into a routine. Things do not always go according to plan. I was so used to scheduling things into my life so that every minute was accounted for. Having a premature baby certainly shocked me as I was not yet on maternity leave and still had so much to do. I can tell you that five months since having my baby I am no closer to that routine! A baby that demands your attention 24/7 and wants to be held constantly, not to mention the colic, croup and reflux, but it makes

the hard times all worth it when you get smiles and laughs! It is difficult, but every day is different.

Life certainly has changed; I wouldn't view it negatively though. Yes, I am severely sleep deprived and have gone from working more than the full-time, 40-hour week to part-time and still trying to fit everything in and further my career.

Some have said that having a baby early in your career means people take you less seriously and you can't succeed in your career. I do not think there is any merit in that at all. Since becoming pregnant I have furthered my career to achieve what I have always strived for. Although I am currently working part-time, I will be exactly where I aimed to be and well within my five-year goal.

So being a young lawyer and being a mum doesn't necessarily have to halt your career. I have advanced my career, am still actively involved in the committee work I do and I have a gorgeous little boy that I would not change for the world.

Life as a young lawyer and a mum is challenging but worth it. After all, when is the right time to have children? Some will find excuses for putting it off for years to come. Finding the balance is important and being a mum helps you be more patient and understanding and can be rewarding in ways that your career cannot satisfy. Why not have the best of both worlds?

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