

Leading by Example

Alexandra Cohen is a Senior Associate in the Family Law team of Viberts.



What would an average working day look like?

During a busy week, I tend to start the morning early at around 6am with a couple of hours working from home first thing. This is so I don't have to stay late as I like to switch off in the evening which I think is very important. I head into the office to start the day with the rest of my team for around 8.45am. The work that I do day to day varies, with most of my work involving financial cases,

divorces and children work. Often, I will be in the Family Court for hearings, or in a private Financial Dispute Resolution hearing (a form of alternative dispute resolution). A big part of my day is training the junior lawyers which I am passionate about. I always make sure that I get out for some lunchtime exercise (either a run or a quick gym session). It clears my head, refreshes me and sets me up for the afternoon.

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What attracted you to a career in law and specifically Family law?

To be honest, it was my father that suggested a career in law when I was completing my university applications. I was originally going to apply for maths or forensic science. After my law degree, I came back to Jersey for the summer and took a job at Viberts. I was not intending to stay as long as I did, but I fell in love with the work and being back home in Jersey. I am still here 9 years later and have become more senior over the years.

What are your most significant milestones in your career so far?

Achieving the different levels of qualifications and positions at Viberts have been my big milestones so far. I was admitted as a Solicitor (England & Wales) in 2020 which was a big step after c.5 years of training. At the age of 28, I was sworn in by the Bailiff as an Advocate of the Royal Court. The ceremony was an amazing experience and emphasised the important role that Advocates have in Jersey.

Have you had any female mentors that have helped you?

Rose Colley (Viberts Family Law partner) has trained me pretty much from the start and has been a brilliant mentor. Family law in Jersey is a female dominated area, and it is inspiring to see that most senior family lawyers are women.

What advice would you give women considering a career in law in Jersey?

Don't overthink the process. There will be times when it feels hard and you want to give up, and there will be times when you feel on top and love it. The training does take time and can be tough, but it is worth it in the end. In terms of the area you want to choose, go with the area of law that feels right for you. You can always change in the future. Family law felt right for me, and I have spent 9 years doing it and still love it.

What are you favourite bits about life with Viberts?

Viberts takes a family approach with their employees, so the atmosphere is always great. I have also become friends with a lot of my colleagues which adds a personal level to work. Viberts have provided me with invaluable training opportunities which include qualifying in 2 jurisdictions.



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