

FACES BEHIND THE BUSINESS ADVERTISING FEATURE

Family lawyer explores negotiation

How long have you been with the firm?

I joined Kennedy Spanner Lawyers in August 2001 as a personal assistant, and in 2002 I commenced an articles of clerkship under the tutelage of Malcolm Kennedy.

After my admission as a solicitor in September 2007 I stayed on as a solicitor, and in July 2013 I acquired proprietorship.

What is your area of expertise?

I undertake work in the areas of family law as well as wills and estates.

You are known for attempting all avenues of resolution before a case needs to go before a Judge.

What are some of the options available to people in estate/matrimonial disputes?

Sometimes it is as simple

being able to pick up the phone and speak to the lawyers acting for the other parties which cuts to the chase and highlights what the real issues are which can then be nipped in the bud before a dispute becomes entrenched.

Often exploring genuine negotiations through correspondence will produce an outcome quickly.

Then there are round table discussions, a more formal mediation and even arbitration.

What is it you love about your job?

In family law I like to be able to show the people I am helping that there is a way through what is usually one of the most catastrophic times in their lives.

Similarly, in estate work it is rewarding to relieve the grief people are



Proprietor and director of Kennedy Spanner Lawyers Amanda Schmidt. PHOTO: NEV MADSEN/THE CHRONICLE

experiencing by taking care of the legal aspects that are not usually familiar to people.

What is your favourite place in Toowoomba?

Picnic Point is an absolutely beautiful place and family friendly.

What makes it a great community to work in?

Quite simply, the people. The clients and the people who make up the community all contribute to the city/country feel that makes Toowoomba such a great place to work in.

In our legal community, our colleagues who honestly provide a very approachable and collaborative environment within which to work.

Lawyer loves righting injustice, solving issues

How long have you been with the firm?

I have been a principal in the firm since 1999, however I joined the firm as an associate in 1997.

What is it you love about your job?

I really enjoy meeting new people who need help with fixing a problem.

I relish the challenge of finding a solution to a clients' problem.

I cherish the idea of helping a client through a really difficult time in their life and getting them out the other side.

A big part of my day often involves acting for 'the little guy' against big insurance companies and I guess I have always liked the story of David and Goliath.

What can people expect from Kennedy Spanner Lawyers?

Many clients have told us over the years that the moment they walked into our reception area they knew that they were in the right place to get help with their legal problem.

We take the position of trust afforded us very seriously.

We vigorously represent our clients interests in order



Kennedy Spanner Lawyers principal Dean Spanner. PHOTO: NEV MADSEN/THE CHRONICLE

to achieve the best result.

We deliver our services in such a way that we do not lose sight of the fact that each of our client is an individual with a unique legal problem that needs to be handled carefully and in accordance with our clients.

One thing we do pride ourselves on is really listening to our clients and

being empathetic to their situation.

What was your motivation to become a lawyer?

Righting an injustice that has been inflicted upon a client is what drives me as a lawyer.

I think that explains why I practise mainly in insurance litigation.



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