

Faces behind the law is a new column, which will take a look at the lives of local members, both inside and outside the law.

Damien McDonald - Cridlands (Darwin)

Brief career history:

Studied at the University of Tasmania (1995-1999) after serving in the Navy from 1988-1995. Articles at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (Melbourne) 2000. Solicitor at Mallesons, including 18 months secondment to NAB restructuring unit (2001-2003). Solicitor at Cridlands from December 2003.

What motivated you to start working in the legal profession?

An opportunity to stay in Hobart for five years to enjoy life as a student. The longer the degree meant more time to enjoy Tasmania.

How long have you been in the Territory and what brought you up here?

December 2003. I worked up here in 1993-1995 and always imagined myself coming back. I was also looking for a much broader practice focus than I was doing in Melbourne.

What is the best, and worst, thing about living and working in the Territory?

Easily the best thing is that it is not Melbourne, but watching the storms roll in over Darwin Harbour in the wet is difficult to beat.

The worst is the airfares south and the fact you can't just pop down to Melbourne to see people.

If you had the power to change one thing in the world, what would it be?

Remove the word "greed" (and concept of) from the English language and replace it with the words "no you first" or "don't worry about it, just forget it. No harm done".

What is your greatest achievement?

None to actually speak of, but perhaps mastering spaghetti carbonara.

What are your hobbies?

Work, reading and a keen interest in radio documentaries. Part-time work for the Australia Defence Forces. I seem to have adopted the Cavenagh as a hobby since moving to the NT.

Describe your perfect weekend.

No work and uninterrupted 'socialising' from say 5pm Friday until mid afternoon Sunday. A concert in between would also be good. Monday would be cancelled.

What are you most passionate about?

Jurisprudence of the contested and uncontested adjournment.

What was the last book you read?

In the Beauty of the Lilies by John Updike.

What is your favourite movie?

The Caine Mutiny with Humphrey Bogart.

What was the last CD you bought?

When I was Cruel by Elvis Costello.

What is your favourite holiday destination and why?

Italy because it is an incredibly beautiful, romantic and interesting place. It is also possible to fit in four (life-changing) meals into the one day.

Describe your perfect meal.

Peking Duck.

After a long week at work it is finally Friday, you walk up to the bar and order a...

Melbourne Bitter.

Three words that describe you are...

Often easily distracted.

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