

Melissa Corbutt

Head of Legal APAC at Bravura Solutions

Kosta Hountalas, Legal Counsel (APAC) for Bravura Solutions, chats with **Melissa Corbutt**, Head of Legal APAC at Bravura Solutions, about Melissa's career and her thoughts on International Women's Day.

Bravura Solutions is an international fintech company listed on the ASX. Outside of work, Melissa enjoys spending time with her family including her energetic 2 year old.

KOSTA HOUNTALAS: Did you always want this job? If so, what did you do to position yourself to get it? If not, how did your career path lead you here?

MELISSA CORBUTT: Since studying law (with a minor in Journalism) I have always had a passion for IP and media. I was fortunate to have undertaken an internship at Channel 9 News while I was still completing university but decided I wanted to pursue a career in law. I commenced my career in private practice gaining experience across a range of areas but always with an underlying focus on IP. Once I realised I wanted to transition to an in-house environment, I started looking at job descriptions for in-house lawyers to upskill where needed so I would be well placed to make the transition.

HOUNTALAS: What advice would you give to your younger self?

CORBUTT: During your life, the path you take will have many twists and turns. Take the time to reflect on where you are at and whether you are happy. If not, decide what needs to change. Your goals when you start your career will change over time and it is ok that those goals evolve or take an entirely different direction – be open to it and learn from each experience along the way as it will shape who you become. None of it will be a waste.

HOUNTALAS: How do you unplug from work? Do we ever unplug from work in current times?

CORBUTT: Despite how accessible we have become with laptops and mobile phones, meaning we can now effectively work anywhere and at any time, it is important to have some boundaries and to take some time away from work to avoid burning out.



When I unplug from work, I like to be present in what I am doing and not checking my emails during that time - for example, taking my dog for a walk or taking my son to the park. I think these simple things can bring so much joy and perspective.

HOUNTALAS: Which actor would you want to play you in a movie about your life?

CORBUTT: Nicole Kidman - I have always been a big fan of Nicole!

HOUNTALAS: What's the best work-related advice you've ever received?

CORBUTT: "No-one is going to die" – lawyers tend to have a lot of Type A personality traits including being very conscientious; but sometimes we need to take a step back and not take ourselves so seriously. That was the intention behind this one little phrase

imparted on me by a wise former manager.

HOUNTALAS: What energises you about work?

CORBUTT: Working with an exceptional team of intelligent people that all have a great sense of humour and collaborating with the business to achieve common goals.

HOUNTALAS: What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders in the industry?

CORBUTT: There may be more challenges for females to overcome to reach leadership roles as opposed to male counterparts, but times are changing. In the meantime, find ways to influence key stakeholders, find sponsors within the business that will support your growth and development and be true to yourself.