

# Zeina Milicevic

## Partner at MinterEllison

**Jess Millner**, Lawyer at MinterEllison, sat down with **Zeina Milicevic**, Partner at MinterEllison to discuss Zeina's career as an IP lawyer in private practice, as well as Zeina's thoughts on International Women's Day.

Zeina is a Partner at MinterEllison in the Dispute Resolution, Intellectual Property Team. Zeina specialises in resolving complex intellectual property, advertising and branding disputes across a range of industries, including media, entertainment, education and cosmetics. Zeina has successfully represented clients in copyright, trademark, confidential information, passing off, and Australian Consumer Law disputes, in the Federal Court, High Court, and Copyright Tribunal of Australia. Over the past two years Zeina was also the President of the Copyright Society of Australia. Outside of work, Zeina is a mum to two young girls who definitely keep her on her toes! Managing their busy schedules is a full-time job in and of itself.

**JESS MILLNER:** What does a typical day look like for you?

**ZEINA MILICEVIC:** My day begins with a series of hard fought, intense negotiations with the ultimate aim of getting my children out the door to school. After that, it's easy! I normally head into the office, where I catch up with my team over a coffee and then I am either in Court, meetings or otherwise working on various advices, evidence, licence agreements etc. No two days are ever the same and I like it that way. The best part about being an Intellectual Property lawyer is that I really get to know my clients, their businesses and the

markets they operate in and so I am always learning something new.

**MILLNER:** What advice would you give to your younger self?

**MILICEVIC:** Work out who you want to be and what is important to you and then own it! Don't ever be afraid to do things differently or hide the fact that you are balancing work with other important parts of your life e.g. exercise, family, children. I think it is something to be proud of.

**MILLNER:** What energises you about work?

**MILICEVIC:** Getting to work with really interesting, intelligent people

(clients, barristers and colleagues) solving complex problems and coming up with workable solutions. It is nice to feel like you have helped someone and made a difference to their day! It is also pretty sweet when my daughters talk about me proudly as being "the boss!"

**MILLNER:** Are there any law reforms in your sector that you think are desperately needed? If so, what are they?

**MILICEVIC:** There are a few but the first that springs to mind is that I think the question of whether you can contract out of a copyright exception needs to be resolved.

**MILLNER:** If you could have dinner with any woman – living or passed, real or fictional, who would it be and why?

**MILICEVIC:** The first people that came to mind were Princess Diana and Meghan Markle (possibly something to do with the fact that I am watching *The Crown* at the moment).

