

the door everyday, which is so gratifying. I'm going to highlight someone from the wider entertainment industry here, and will say I find Dolly Parton so incredibly inspiring. I know she's not a media lawyer, but I feel like she absolutely could be if she wanted to be?! Dolly has demonstrated so many admirable qualities that have endured over the many decades she's been in the industry – self-belief, open mindedness, positive mindset, altruism, incredible work ethic, and self awareness just to name a few. She made big moves in her early career because she backed herself. She supports other women and keeps the door propped open for those coming in behind her, and her philanthropy efforts over

the years are nothing short of inspirational (especially her involvement in, and advocacy for, the COVID vaccine). Not to mention she's one of the most talented entertainers out there AND has her own theme park.

ERIN: The 2024 International Women's Day campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion'. What does this mean to you and how would you like to see it applied in your industry?

CLARE: Inspire Inclusion means that we should be taking all the chances we can get to inspire and motivate ourselves and others towards making inclusive choices in all aspects of our lives in order to

further empower those whose voices need amplifying, and to have those voices enrich our experiences. In the screen industry this means seeing more inclusive choices both in front of and behind the camera – making sure we're inviting and including diverse voices into our boardrooms, conference rooms and writers rooms, and telling stories from all walks of life, to ensure we're getting the best possible version of every project we're bringing to life.

ERIN: That is such a great message to end on. Thank you so much for joining me and sharing your experiences with CAMLA. Happy International Women's Day!

Jess Millner

Legal Counsel, Guardian News & Media

Georgia Murray, Lawyer, MinterEllison, sits down with **Jess Millner**, Legal Counsel, Guardian News & Media, to discuss Jess's career as an intellectual property lawyer and beyond, as well as Jess's thoughts on International Women's Day.

Jess started out her career at MinterEllison, where after completing her summer clerkship and graduate rotations she eventually settled and worked in the IP Team for a number of years. Jess advised on a wide range of intellectual property and privacy matters, and acted on several high-profile disputes and matters in the Copyright Tribunal. More recently, Jess has moved to London where she now works as in-house Legal Counsel in the commercial legal team at The Guardian.

GEORGIA MURRAY: Jess, thanks for being involved in this special edition of the CLB! Could you tell us what a typical day looks like for you at The Guardian?

JESS MILLNER: My day always starts with coffee! After that it is quite varied. I have an endless to-do list that I'm increasingly learning to be flexible with. I'll usually have some more complex advices or drafting to work on but in between that I'll have meetings to discuss the legal advice for new projects or to answer ad-hoc queries as they come up from the business. I'm usually in the office 3-4 days each week as I find it's easiest to resolve problems and get to the bottom of things quickly with a face-to-face chat. I find work is more fun in person! There is also a great energy in the office and always something interesting going on - like Q&As with journalists, screenings of new documentaries, or talks about the issues impacting our industry. These events also really help me see not only how my legal advice contributes to the organisation but also the impact of the organisation more broadly.

GEORGIA: What do you like best about your work?

JESS: One of the things I like the most about my role is that I get to work with so many really talented people who are genuinely passionate about what they do and how their work contributes to The Guardian. In the commercial legal team, my role is really varied and I get to work with people from across the organisation, whether that's in product development, advertising, marketing, editorial or technology. To provide the best and most meaningful

legal advice, I really need to understand the business, whether that's how our App works, what our brand strategy is or what our editorial values are – this keeps my job interesting! It's also really fulfilling to provide legal advice from end to end on projects within the business and see everyone's hard to work come to life. Everyone in the organisation is really value driven and it's a really nice environment to work in.

GEORGIA: Turning from the present to the past, what advice would you give to your younger self?

JESS: If I'm being truly honest, it would be to worry less! (Although that's something I'm still working on...) Looking back though I would love to have been able to tell my younger self to remember that my career is not a race and that it's important to find balance. I think that's something I've gotten better at and I actually think it's made me a better lawyer. Some other tips I would give myself are: (1) always be curious and ask questions; (2) step back from a complicated problem (it often makes more sense in the morning!); and (3) work is best when you find time for a laugh with your colleagues, and roll with the chaos!

GEORGIA: What's the greatest risk you've taken as a professional?

JESS: Most recently it would have to be taking the leap to move overseas and take my first in-house role. It's certainly something I had my reservations about – I wondered whether moving overseas, practising in a new jurisdiction and moving in-house might be a lot of change at once!



It has certainly had its challenges, but in a lot of ways that's been really energising and confidence-building. I've learnt a lot in the past few months but one of the best takeaways has been the reminder that when you really throw yourself into something new, it's surprising how quickly you can pick it up!

GEORGIA: Who is one woman in the industry whom you really admire, and why?

JESS: I don't know that I can pick just one! I was really lucky to work with so many incredible women right from the get-go at MinterEllison. I had some really great female mentors right from my first day and all the way through to my time in the IP Team. They taught me how to intelligently and compassionately tackle problems, how to back myself, how to balance all the competing priorities of work and life and how to support each other! I felt that many of my female colleagues really championed each other and I think that's something that's really important in our industry.

GEORGIA: Thank you for these brilliant insights Jess. On behalf of our readers, thanks so much for your wonderful insights. Happy International Women's Day!