

**ISABELLA:** What is the greatest risk you've taken as a professional?

**KATE:** I am naturally risk-averse, especially in my professional life. When my daughter was a pre-schooler I was asked to take on a greenfields role as General Counsel for a new streaming service called Presto. Presto was a joint venture between Foxtel and Seven and was one of Australia's first streaming services. At the time, I thought that taking on the role was risky because I wasn't sure if I could successfully fulfill the expectations that I had placed on myself in that role and be an active, present parent. This was

compounded by the fact that I was a single parent at the time and running a household myself. I had an open conversation with my boss about my reservations and she told me that she had every confidence in me to do to job. I did take the role and once my feet were under the desk, I didn't look back.

**ISABELLA:** Tell me about a woman in your industry who inspires you, and why?

**KATE:** There are so many women in our industry that inspire me. I have been extremely fortunate to work for strong, intelligent, women leaders throughout my

career. My supervising partner at Clayton Utz, Mary Still, my boss and Chief General Counsel at Foxtel, Lynette Ireland and last but not least my current boss, Rachel Launders, General Counsel and Company Secretary at Nine. All of these women have demonstrated professional excellence and a high intellect, combined with empathy and humility. These women inspire me because they are at the top of their game and are confident enough to use their influence to lift up others around them.

## Mandy Chapman

Legal & Business Affairs Executive, Beyond International

**Katherine Voukidis**, Senior Associate, Sainty Law, sits down with **Mandy Chapman**, Legal & Business Affairs Executive, Beyond International, to discuss Mandy's career and thoughts on International Women's Day in 2024.

Mandy is in-house counsel at Beyond International specialising in corporate, media, entertainment, IP, and IT law. Mandy has extensive experience advising independent producers of original film, television, and digital content. Mandy was an active member of CAMLA's Young Lawyers Committee, before they put her out to pasture.

**KATHERINE VOUKIDIS:** Thank you, Mandy, for taking the time to speak with us. To start, what does a typical work day look like for you?

**MANDY CHAPMAN:** Thank you so much for asking me to participate, Katherine! A great privilege. Well, like most of your interviewees for this International Women's Day Special Edition, it starts with lemon water, meditation, yoga, and heaps of self-care. Just joking, like most lawyers (whether or not they admit it), I start the day by checking my work emails before I get up in the morning. I work across various time zones, so am keen to catch up on what has come in overnight as soon as I can, especially on projects I am working on with my LA-based colleagues. I then spend the day providing advice as efficiently as possible on general corporate matters, and anything and everything related to the financing, production, and exploitation of content across all genres, with a focus on Beyond's factual content produced in the USA.

**KATHERINE:** Did you always want to work in media law?

**MANDY:** The short answer is no. Fortunately, I lucked out. Ending up where I am makes perfect sense to me now, as I have always been drawn to creative people, the arts, and creative endeavours.

**KATHERINE:** How did your career path lead you here?

**MANDY:** At Uni I became so invested in studying law while completing a combined Media/Law LLB. I was initially interested in a career in the media industry, but not necessarily as a lawyer. I arrived where I am via a role as research assistant to a brilliant barrister, now Senior Counsel, and at that time aspired to become a barrister myself.

I had an era working at Arts Law which felt like living the dream back then, then a private practice era mainly in litigation, which I loved. A colleague at my then firm shared a legal counsel job ad for a role at Beyond Productions with me, which sounded fantastic, and the rest is history.

**KATHERINE:** How do you unplug from work?

**MANDY:** Honestly/tragically I watch reality shows produced by other production companies while running around trying to do ordinary life things at once. I also peruse Beetootea articles for lols, and mindlessly scroll Reddit and Instagram, although Instagram now has too many sponsored ads to be fun anymore.

**KATHERINE:** Are there any law reforms or regulations you are keeping an eye on?

**MANDY:** The regulation of generative AI around the world. It could not be more fascinating to watch the developments in technology on a daily basis. I enjoy keeping an eye on how various governments are scrambling to develop effective generative AI regulation (if needed) to promote safety and fair use/dealing, while still encouraging innovation, so that they don't lag behind other countries.

**KATHERINE:** The 2024 International Women's Day campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion'. What does this mean to you?

**MANDY:** A distinct hallmark of my upbringing was to treat everybody equally without exception, regardless of who they are, where they came from, what they look like, what they have/don't have, etc. I advocate for inclusivity on all levels, and make sure that I call out any discrimination or suspicious standards of inclusivity that I



become aware of at work and in my personal life. To me, it means continuing to uphold my own personal beliefs while encouraging others to also ensure inclusivity at all times.

**KATHERINE:** Can you tell us about any women in the industry that you admire or who have impacted your career?

**MANDY:** There are too many to name here, but I do have a particular admiration for women in the industry who are smart and excellent at what they do, but also manage to be hilarious at the same time, and aren't afraid to be themselves. Many of my colleagues at Beyond in a range of roles inspire me daily, just quietly being amazing at all they do behind the scenes, while also being kind, real, and treating everyone they encounter with respect.

**KATHERINE:** What advice would you give your younger self?

**MANDY:** 100% I would say take whatever steps you can to stop comparing yourself to other people who are in a completely different phase of their career and life to you. I know it's overused, but the phrase 'comparison is the thief of joy' resonates with me now. You can only be yourself, and where you are on your own path, at any time.