



Belinda Harvey

Partner

Agile working is fundamental to successfully managing my life in general. My career is a big part of my life, but so is family. My success professionally and personally hinges on being able to work in an agile way that meets the demands of my role as a Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright, while balancing the needs of a young child at home, my extended family and my personal needs.

Our roles in the legal profession are not a typical 9-5 job. Our clients require flexibility from us to meet the demands of their business, and the fact that we work in a global law firm often means that we need to be agile in the way we work. Calls at odd hours, the need for urgent advice, can mean demands outside of the “work day”. A demanding career can also often mean little time in “business hours” to do the tasks required to keep life outside of work running smoothly. To me, this is where agile working comes in. I have worked flexibly for over three years now, but this has been more than working from home a day a week. It has meant sometimes starting and finishing my day at odd

hours so that I can leave early from the office to pick up my son from childcare or take him to swimming lessons, but then logging back on later to finish up what needs to be done or getting up early to get a head start on the day. It has meant working Saturday mornings while in the midst of global deals so I can speak with the US, but leaving early on Friday afternoon while they slumber so I can have that extra time with my son, or do the groceries.

Taking an agile approach to life has allowed me to build a successful career while raising a happy little boy – it allows me to be the best I can be in the different aspects of my life. This agile approach means that all aspects of life needs to be flexible – it needs to move and shift with competing demands. It is a way of working that is circular in its nature – its give and take. With this give and take can come great success – for me, for the firm, and for my family. Reaching my personal and professional goals through working in an agile way has been pivotal to this success.

Flex-ability works

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agile