

Dylan McKimmie

Partner

Although I work full-time, and have done so since joining the firm over 13 years ago, I have always worked in an agile way to accommodate the demands of my children. For most of that time, my wife, also a lawyer, has worked as well so we've routinely had to juggle competing work schedules. For a long time, I was militant about leaving the office shortly after 5, so I could be home for the dinner, bath and bed-time routine. I recall once telling a client that I would not be able to attend a teleconference at 5.30pm for this reason, and his response was how great it was that I not only did that, but was willing to tell a client that was what I was doing. He completely understood, and unsurprisingly the call was able to be rescheduled.

While I am a firm believer in the importance of "face time" in the office, that doesn't mean you have to be here until 8pm every night (or at 8am every morning). It's a balance, and with the sophistication of our remote working systems, there is no reason why you can't balance the need for "face time" with time away from the office (in my case, either

dropping kids at school, attending what seems like an endless procession of school related assemblies or meetings, or being home to see my kids in the evening). The work can almost always be caught up at some other time, usually later in the evening. It's simply a matter of logically thinking through the day (or week) and planning what you will do when you are in the office. A lot of what we do can be done away from the office (and, in some instances, it is much more efficient to do it away from the hustle of the office).

All of my clients (and, importantly, my team) know I'm available for them when they need me. But they also know I have four young kids, and I'm pretty obsessive about ensuring I have time with them.

Flex-ability works



agile